

FOOTBALL 47  
Championship lure  
James away  
from Middlesbrough  
for new court

# THE TIMES

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## ROYAL SCHOOLBOY SCANDALS

will run and run  
says Alan Coren

PAGE 20

## THE SPICE GIRL OF TENNIS

The new kid  
on the court

PAGE 52

## THE ROSEWALL ALIEN INDUSTRY

Pentagon  
tries to  
shoot down  
UFO theory

PAGES 15, 21

## SHADES OF FASHION

Sunglasses -  
a must,  
indoors  
or out

PAGE 18

'Worst financial scandal of century'

## Pension firms dressed down by minister

By Gavin Lumsden  
TWO of Britain's leading insurance companies were publicly condemned by the Government yesterday for underestimating ministers' determination to resolve the long-standing misselling pensions scandal.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, compared the Legal & General and the Sedgwick Group to alcoholics unable to acknowledge that they had a problem.

Her attack came six weeks after she ordered 24 companies, including the Prudential, Norwich Union and Royal Sun Alliance, to demonstrate the resources they had committed to settling the problem. One and a half million people are estimated to have lost thousands of pounds each as a result of being given poor pension advice between 1988 and 1994.

Ms Liddell said: "While most of the policy statements sent to me showed a business-like sense of purpose, I regret that there are two which appear to misunderstand the Government's determination that this matter be resolved with dispatch."

"The Sedgwick Group is quite wrong to assert that the Government's initiative on May 14 was in any way under-researched. And I am not convinced by the objections of the board of Legal & General to well-merited criticism of the industry's performance."

Ms Liddell said 600,000 priority cases had been identified from the misselling of personal pensions; 18,000 had died without receiving compensation, while a further one



Liddell compared firms with alcoholics

million to two million were non-priority. "This is the worst financial scandal of the century," she said. Some companies had resolved only 2 per cent of their cases, "an appalling record".

The 24 pension companies must now send the Treasury a detailed breakdown of the cases they have to settle by next Thursday and provide an update every month. Ms Liddell has instructed the Personal Investment Authority and the Securities and Investments Board who regulate the pension companies to vet these figures.

She will then decide what further action to take. Ms Liddell said nothing has been ruled out. Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, was head of Legal & General until 1991. Legal & General has more than 55,000 cases.

David Prosser, the company's chief executive, said last night the company was fully committed to the pensions review and had completed 87 per cent of the cases it had to

settle under the PIA's September deadline. He said the company "cannot understand" Ms Liddell's criticism of its letter. "No personal pension customer advised by Legal & General will lose out," he said.

The Sedgwick Group, which includes the pensions consultant and provider Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, said it was surprised that it was named by Ms Liddell.

The company said it welcomed the Government's determination to speed up the review process and added: "We remain committed to completing the review within the timetable already agreed with our regulators."

"The Economic Secretary regrettably appears to have taken exception to a comment we made in the covering letter to our report, which is now in the public domain."

In the letter, Sax Riley, Sedgwick chairman, said it was disappointed that Ms Liddell did not have the opportunity to brief herself on the background to the affair.

Legal & General has a market capitalisation of nearly £5.2 billion. Last year, it made a record pre-tax operating profit of £291.4 million, up from £252.5 million. Sales of life assurance and pension products, one of the real growth areas for insurers at the moment because of the low premium rates in motor and general insurance, were up 54 per cent to £301 million last year.

Sedgwick Group has a market capitalisation of about £677 million. It made a pre-tax profit of £95.5 million in 1996, up from £90.1 million in 1995.



A recent photograph of instructor Michael Costello, behind, jumping with a student. Mr Costello is thought to have saved the life of Briton Gareth Griffiths

## Hero saved Briton in 6,000ft fall

FROM TOM RHODES IN ORLANDO, DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI AND DANIEL MCGRODY

A BRITISH skydiver who survived a 6,000ft fall when his parachute failed to open was probably saved by the sacrifice of the instructor who fell with him.

Gareth Griffiths, 27, was making his first parachute jump, a tandem jump strapped underneath instructor Michael Costello.

Mr Griffiths appears to have escaped death because Mr Costello rolled over at the last minute absorbing the worst of the impact. Mr Costello, 38, died instantly.

Mr Griffiths, a management consultant from

Bridgend, South Wales, told friends from his hospital bed in Florida yesterday: "I remember the chutes did not open fully and then there was the sensation of the ground rushing up."

After a seven-hour operation at Orlando Regional Medical Centre in Florida Mr Griffiths was said to be "serious but stable". A hospital spokesman said that, barring any unforeseen complications, Mr Griffiths could make a full recovery. The operation to his spine had involved a bone graft and fusing marrow together at the base of his spine

where he had suffered a compression fracture to one vertebra.

Mr Griffiths was on holiday with five friends and had enrolled in a two week sky diving programme at the Paragators Sports Parachute Centre at Umatilla, 50 miles north of Orlando.

His friend Michael Tighe, 24, was standing with two others in the drop zone ready to take photographs as their friends as they came down. "We noticed what looked like a solo parachutist in difficulty. The chute was only partially open and they were coming

down fast before they disappeared below the treeline."

Ambulances arrived at the scene within minutes and Mr Griffiths was rushed to hospital.

"He was talking but in a lot of pain and was heavily sedated," said Mr Tighe, 24, who also works as a management consultant for Andersen Consulting. "He had broken his ribs on the right so talking was sore. What he said was that the chutes were not fully opening and he remembered the ground rushing up. It is a miracle he is alive. It

Continued on page 3, col 3

## Rare Van Gogh fetches £8m

A rare watercolour by Vincent Van Gogh of a panoramic harvest scene in Provence sold for £8.8 million at Sotheby's in London last night.

It was bought by Dede Brooks, president and chief executive of the auction house, on behalf of an anonymous bidder. The estimate had been £6 million.

## MP says minister bullied him

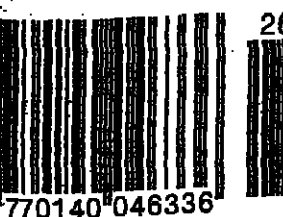
A Labour MP has claimed that he was bullied by a cabinet minister and threatened with expulsion from the party for campaigning against a Welsh assembly.

Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, has made an official complaint to the Chief Whip.

By James Landale  
POLITICAL REPORTER

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## Summit amiss at t'House, but it's not clear what

IN THE world outside, Greg Rusedski was smashing tennis balls at Mark Philippoussis across the Centre Court at Wimbledon. A few miles away and under cover, Tony Blair lobbied a series of wet balls at William Hague across a soggy green court.

This was the world of Westminster. A new Prime Minister and a new Leader of the Opposition faced each other in their first match at the Commons Centre Court.

William Hague mustered what swing he could, cleared the net easily, but never seriously wrong-footed Mr Blair. When umpire Boothroyd suspended play, both men retired with honour, neither with distinction.

The stands were not full as the Prime Minister returned from the "G8" summit in Denver and the Special UN Environment Conference in New York, to resume the Com-

Matthew Parris

mons game. For a man presumably suffering election-lag, jet-lag, jargon-lag and UN hot-air-lag, Mr Blair turned in a relaxed performance: poised and confident.

But with sizzlers like flexible labour markets and an integrated transport system to serve across the dispatch box net he was struggling yesterday for that awesome display of unrelenting power with which Rusedski was astonishing commentators south of the river.

Tony Blair does not pronounce the i in (for instance) "hit" properly. In his diction the sound would rhyme with the "ate" in "frigate". Thus, though he was trying to tell us about the summit in Denver, it

sounded as though he had come back to describe summit in Denver. It was never clear what.

Summit Mr Blair did discuss in Denver was unneeded petrol. It was really very hard for Mr Hague to be against this. Nor did he find it easy to take exception to the international fight against organised crime.

Next across the net came sustained public pensions systems. Hague could hardly smash these back at Blair's baseline. Managed fisheries thudded, waterlogged, into Hague's court. Energy-saving by means of through-ticketing failed to start a volley.

Summit in the communiqué had, however, caught the young Hague's attention. He begged Blair to tell him more about the "active ageing strategy" unveiled at the "G8". As neither the House nor the

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Loser tips Rusedski to win Wimbledon

By John Goodbody and Joanna Bale

GREG RUSEDSKI was tipped by Australian Mark Philippoussis, the fastest server in world tennis, as a possible Wimbledon winner after the unseeded Briton beat him in straight sets yesterday in a match stopped on Monday by poor light.

The impact of Tim Henman's Monday victory clearly buoyed up Rusedski in crushing Philippoussis, the No.7 seed. But the British successes also included Chris Wilkinson, who yesterday defeated the No.17 seed.

The bad news is that Wimbledon is likely to be disrupted by rain for the rest of the week in what will have been the wettest June for seven years. Forecasters say it will also be cold and windy.

To the delight of yesterday's packed 13,000 Centre Court crowd, it took Rusedski just 14 minutes to complete his 7-6,

7-6, 6-3 triumph. During the battle, both men had served times at 138mph, with one of the Australian's shots hitting a line-judge in the stomach. Rusedski had 27 aces to his opponent's 14.

When Philippoussis was asked afterwards if Rusedski could go "all the way", he said: "If he serves like that, I think why not?"

The Canadian-born Rusedski, 23, accepted that Henman's performances added to the buoyancy of the Britons in a men's tournament that a home player has not won since Fred Perry in 1936, but added that he did not feel that he was in Henman's shadow.

Wilkinson beat Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 7-6, 6-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Comment, page 48  
Reports, page 48

## Blair's lost boxes turn up on Heathrow carousel

By James Landale  
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday experienced the frustration felt by thousands of air travellers when his luggage went missing at Heathrow.

But while most tourists are parted from nothing more than a suitcase of clothes, the Prime Minister lost nine red ministerial boxes. Worse, they ended up on the public baggage

carousel. Travellers were stunned as the boxes, inscribed "Prime Minister" in gold letters, circulated with other luggage until Downing Street officials were informed.

Officials said there was no risk of state secrets being divulged as the boxes contained only stationery and office equipment used by Mr Blair's staff.

Mr Blair arrived at 8.30am on BA Flight 176 after attending the Earth

Summit in New York and was whisked through the VIP lounge. But the red boxes, which should have been delivered personally to aides, ended up on the carousel in Terminal Four.

A British Airways official spotted the boxes and took them off.

An airline spokesman said an investigation had been launched and that Robert Ayling, the Chief Executive, had apologised to Mr Blair. The mix-up was apparently caused by a

breakdown in communications between London and New York.

Downing Street officials insisted that boxes with confidential material are always kept with officials on the plane as hand luggage.

It came to light meanwhile that Mr Blair refused the gift of a £10,700 Rolex watch at the Denver G7 summit last weekend. Rolex offered an Oyster Perpetual Day-Date President chronometer to each head of government.

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CROSSWORDS	26, 52	SIMON JENKINS	20	COURT & SOCIAL	22	LAW REPORT	41



# MP complains of devolution threats

THE Labour leadership yesterday faced revolt over its devolution proposals after an MP claimed that he had been bullied by a Cabinet minister and threatened with expulsion from the party for campaigning against a Welsh assembly.

In the first sign that some dissidents are prepared to defy Labour's tough line on discipline, Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, made an official complaint to Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, about an alleged threat from Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

Mr Smith said that Mr Davies had threatened to remove him from the party if he campaigned against the referendum planned this autumn. He also said that leaders of his local council had been told by advisers that their relationship with the Welsh Office could suffer because of his stance.

"This is about free speech. This is about conducting a referendum free from threats," Mr Smith said. "And this is about not just the Secretary of State for Wales, but his policy adviser trying to put pressure on my local authority in order for me to take a particular decision."

## A complaint to the Chief Whip indicates that dissidents in the party are prepared to defy the Government's tough line on discipline, Valerie Elliott reports

Mr Smith, who replaced Michael Foot, former Labour leader in the Valleys seat in 1992, said that Huw Roberts, the political adviser, had put pressure on Blaenau Gwent council suggesting that future meetings between the Welsh Office and local councillors and officials might cause difficulties if their MP was disciplined.

Mr Davies later denied that he had made any such threat but insisted that he still expected all Labour MPs to rally behind the party's manifesto commitment to a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. "What I certainly did was tell him I expected Welsh Labour MPs, who were elected on the basis of a very clear election manifesto, would show a degree of loyalty to the party which allowed them to be elected as MPs."

"If they failed to do so, we would have to look at the action which would be available to the Parliamentary Labour Party."

Huw Roberts, his political adviser, said: "I have had one conversation with Llew Smith on this subject and no threats at all were made. The conversation was very one-sided with Llew giving me his views."

A senior party spokesman said the Labour leadership fully backed Mr Davies and said that MPs should endorse the manifesto policies. Party sources, however, made clear they did not want to rock the boat unnecessarily or provoke rebel MPs to make further criticisms. One ministerial source said: "There are many of us who believe that threats and bullying are counter-productive. If we appear to be making a martyr of someone, then if we are not careful discipline will take over the issue. There is a

feeling that someone has been over-zealous and that does not help at all."

Denzil Davies, a former Treasury minister and Labour MP for Llanelli, said: "This is a new era of politics and I do not think we should use the old rules at Westminster with threats of three-line whips and expulsions. They should play no part in new politics."

Nigel Evans, the Conservative spokesman on Wales, said the Government appeared to be indulging in "Stalinist activity". He spoke of "the breathtaking arrogance of Ron Davies in trying to impose his views on people who have their own principled views."

At the moment the public dissidents in Scotland appear to be limited to Tam Dalyell, the MP for Linlithgow, who has always made his opposition to a Scottish parliament clear. Senior party sources made clear that Mr Dalyell was a "special case" and would not be disciplined. However, other Scottish dissidents would not be given the same treatment.

Additional reporting by Jill Sherman and Polly Newton

## Old Labour minister is working to achieve Blairite programme

By Valerie Elliott  
Whitehall Editor

### MAN IN THE NEWS

RON DAVIES, the MP accused of threatening Llew Smith over the Government's devolution proposals, is regarded by many Blairites as one of the awkward squad.

But despite being seen as old Labour, Mr Davies, the Welsh Secretary and MP for Caerphilly, can be useful to Tony Blair for he is able to deliver the party's backwoods-men who remain sceptical about Labour's rightward shift.

Before the election, Sir Ray Powell, MP for Ognore, claimed that Mr Davies had offered him a peerage if he stood down from the Commons so that a safe Labour

seat could be found for Alan Howarth, who had defected from the Conservative Party. Mr Howarth subsequently became MP for Newport East.

Mr Davies vehemently rejected the charges, and the furore was quelled when his friends disclosed that there had been longstanding animosity between the two men, former colleagues in the Labour whips' office. Mr Davies had apparently irritated Sir Ray when he stood for election as Shadow Chief Whip.

Mr Davies is also leader of the Welsh Labour Party and organisationally is able to arrange matters in Wales in

his own way. He fought a masterful campaign to win election to the Shadow Cabinet but his place in the Cabinet will only be assured if he avoids adverse headlines and secures Welsh support for the Devolution Bill.

He spent much time before the election attempting to head off the anti-devolution rebels, and is trying to maximise Welsh support in the Commons on the Second Reading.

He is determined that the public should understand the issues — although no umbrella groups opposing devolution are to receive public funds this time, unlike the

situation under the Callaghan Government.

An easy-to-read version of the White Paper proposals will be delivered to every Welsh home at public expense. The Welsh will go to the polls in the referendum vote shortly after the Scottish vote; it is hoped that a "Yes" vote in Scotland will encourage the Welsh.

Mr Davies has already made his mark as Welsh Secretary. Last month he ripped up the "jobs for the boys" register of public appointments to quangos at the Welsh Office — a move that had been resisted by a number of departments who felt they might have to take similar action. Mr Davies won the argument.



Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, who insisted yesterday that he expected all Labour MPs to rally behind the party's commitment to a Welsh assembly

## Loyalists give cool response to Ulster rethink

By Nicholas Watt  
and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR'S hopes of kickstarting the Northern Ireland peace process received a setback last night when the Ulster Unionists gave a cool response to an Anglo-Irish paper on disarming terrorists. Senior sources in the party said they were alarmed by the paper which the Prime Minister outlined to David Trimble, the UUP leader, at a meeting in Downing Street yesterday.

One senior Ulster Unionist source said last night: "We are heading for a crisis because it is insensitive of the Government to come up with a proposal like this just before the height of the marching season."

Mr Trimble is expected to raise the issue in the Commons today when Mr Blair makes a statement on the latest developments on the peace process.

However, Downing Street sources said that Mr Blair had been pleased by Mr Trimble's public comments about the meeting. An official said: "Mr Blair had felt the meeting was 'useful and constructive' but admitted that Mr Trimble had raised a number of concerns."

Speaking after the Downing Street meeting, Mr Trimble said his party could go along with "parallel decommissioning", which would see a weapons surrender programme running alongside talks, provided that arms really were being handed in.

He said: "Our concern in discussion with Government is to ensure that the procedures and mechanisms are clearly there to ensure that decommissioning takes place."

However, the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, was more forthright in his opposition, condemning the Anglo-Irish paper as a "surrender document".

Mr Blair held a meeting with William Hague yesterday afternoon to discuss whether the Tories would still continue the bipartisan approach to the Irish peace process. He also saw John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP yesterday morning.

Mr Hume was optimistic, saying Mr Blair had "clearly opened the door to lasting peace". Asked whether they were on the verge of a breakthrough, he replied: "I certainly hope we are."

Mr Blair will reveal the contents of the paper to the Commons today during a wide-ranging statement on Northern Ireland.

## Summat amiss at t'House

Continued from page 1  
press has any sense of irony, most people decided Hague's joke must be a gag and laughed at rather than with him.

Blair replied that by their jobs both he and Hague had already chosen active ageing strategies. Both laughed. Hague's few remaining wisps of combed-over hair trembled. Blair's emerging bald patch glinted mysteriously from under the teased Weetabix which adorns his crown.

From the Peers' Gallery another William — Whitelaw — watched, he and Jeffrey Archer having put a generous stretch of the Commons green bench-leather between themselves.

From my own seat almost above Hague's head I had a closer view. Hague stands with a good, upright posture. He has very small hands, chimpanzee-like, and a very large snarl, which he reads effortlessly.

His style was not unlike John Major's: affable, workmanlike, fluent and with a well-briefed attention to detail but Hague is crisper and more assertive.

Paddy Ashdown watched both Blair and Hague, amused. This was his third Prime Minister, Hague, he said, was the "sixth leader of a party since I became Leader of mine."

"Much good it did you," came a shout from the groundlings.

"But I get younger every day," declared the defiant Liberal Democrat grandad, the John Newcombe of parliamentary tennis.

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BT/79

# Frank Windsor's son dies in river death crash mystery

By Shirley English, Gillian Bowditch and Lin Jenkins

THE only son of actor Frank Windsor has been killed in a car crash after spending the night at a remote Highland hotel with a married colleague.

The bodies of David Windsor, 29, from Holland Park, London, and his companion, Denise Rothwell, 32, from Shepperton, southwest London, were discovered in the wreck of a Ford Fiesta in the River Grudie, beneath an old bridge in Wester Ross, three miles west of Kinlochewe.

The couple, who both worked as cabin crew for British Airways, had spent the night in a twin room at the Loch Maree Hotel, a favourite hideaway of the Royal Family, and had left mysteriously at 4am on Monday morning without paying the £100 bill.

Shortly afterwards their hired car skidded off a country road and plunged 15ft into a river. The accident was discovered by a motorist at around 4.50am who noticed skid marks on the verge of the winding A832 Garloch to

Kinlochewe road near a bridge.

He then saw car headlights shining from under the water, close to where the river flows into Loch Maree. Northern Police said it was thought that the couple may have swerved to avoid a deer.

Mrs Rothwell had worked for BA for more than six years and was married to James Rothwell, a first officer and long-haul BA pilot, who was in Delhi at the time of the accident. He was flying back to London last night as a passenger.

Frank Windsor, who made his reputation playing the tough but dependable policeman, John Watt, in *Z Cars*, *Softly Softly* and *Task Force*, was travelling back from a curtailed driving holiday in Italy with his wife Mary, a former dancer, last night to be with his daughter, Amanda, a travel administrator.

Scott Marshall, his agent, said the actor was devastated at the loss of his only son, to whom he was extremely close. "Amanda has spoken to Frank and of course everyone is extremely upset. It is an horrific incident. Frank and Mary are making arrangements to travel home and should be back tomorrow."

"They are a very close family. David was a thoroughly nice fellow. We got to know him quite well over the last eight or nine years. He would often come to the theatre with us or attend Frank's drinks parties."

"He loved his job. He was a nice person to know and very interested in the business side of the theatre."

David Windsor, who had worked for BA for two years, used his parents' Holland Park home as his London base when he was not travelling. He was unmarried. It is understood that Mrs Rothwell



The car in which David Windsor and a married woman died. It was found submerged after skidding off the road

and Mr Windsor had finished work the previous Thursday. She had been working on the London to Aberdeen shuttle and he had been working on the London to Hannover, Germany, flights.

It is not clear when they met up but they hired a red Ford Fiesta from Hertz at Inverness Airport, which is around 70 miles from Loch Maree. They checked in to the Loch Maree Hotel at around 7.30pm on Sunday evening.

Mr Windsor was booked in under his own name, but did not register his partner. It is

believed Mrs Rothwell used her maiden name of Murphy. They asked for a double room but were given a twin room overlooking the loch. They had a bar meal and a bottle of wine and were said to have returned to their room before midnight.

Matthew Wylie, hotel manager, said: "We don't make a habit of quizzing our guests. They simply said they were touring the area, like most of our guests do."

He said another guest in a room over the car park heard a car leave in the early hours

of the following morning. It was heading towards Inverness. "I really have no idea whether they intended to pay later or not, but they did not pay before they left."

Northern Police divers recovered the bodies and then lifted the car and luggage from the water by a crane.

The road was closed for an hour. Superintendent Hugh MacKay, said that the car could not have been in the water for long because the battery was still operating the headlights.

It is understood that Mr

Windsor was due back on duty in London yesterday and that Mrs Rothwell had been due to return to work today.

A British Airways spokesman said that the couple's colleagues were shocked and upset by the accident. "Our sympathies reach out to the families and friends of Denise and David," he said.

Friends and neighbours living near the family home said they were devastated at news of Mr Windsor's death. They described the family as loving and close and said that the actor would be distraught.

## Attacker of Judy X made nuisance calls to Tories

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE attacker who subjected a Tory party worker to a sexual ordeal five years ago walked free from court yesterday after he admitted telephoning female Conservative activists with offers of canvassing help and donations.

John Cronin, 25, was given a year's probation and ordered to have psychiatric help after he admitted causing needless anxiety or inconvenience by phoning five Scottish Tory officials on the afternoon of April 17. He used false names and aroused suspicion when he failed to arrive for meetings and give the donations.

In 1993 a Tory worker, known only as Judy X, shocked the Scottish Conservative Party Conference with a speech about the attack by Cronin, whose life sentence had been cut to six years on appeal.

He had posed as a priest and told Judy X that he wanted to make a donation to the party. She invited him into her Edinburgh home where he battered her with a poker, almost throttled her to death and committed a degrading sex attack.

Judy X, who has four children, told the party conference that she believed Cronin would have killed her if she had resisted further. He was on bail at the time of the attack.

Within a year of being released from prison for that offence, Cronin was jailed in Ireland for a year for robbing an elderly priest while he himself was disguised as a priest. He also caused a security alert after following

female politicians around Leinster House. Haddington Sheriff Court was told yesterday that Cronin adopted the names John Richardson and Jim Taylor, as well as posing as a London businessman called Robert Dalton.

He made lengthy calls to constituency offices in Edinburgh, Haddington, Stonehaven, Perth and Selkirk. They were later traced to his home in Tranent, East Lothian, where he was arrested.

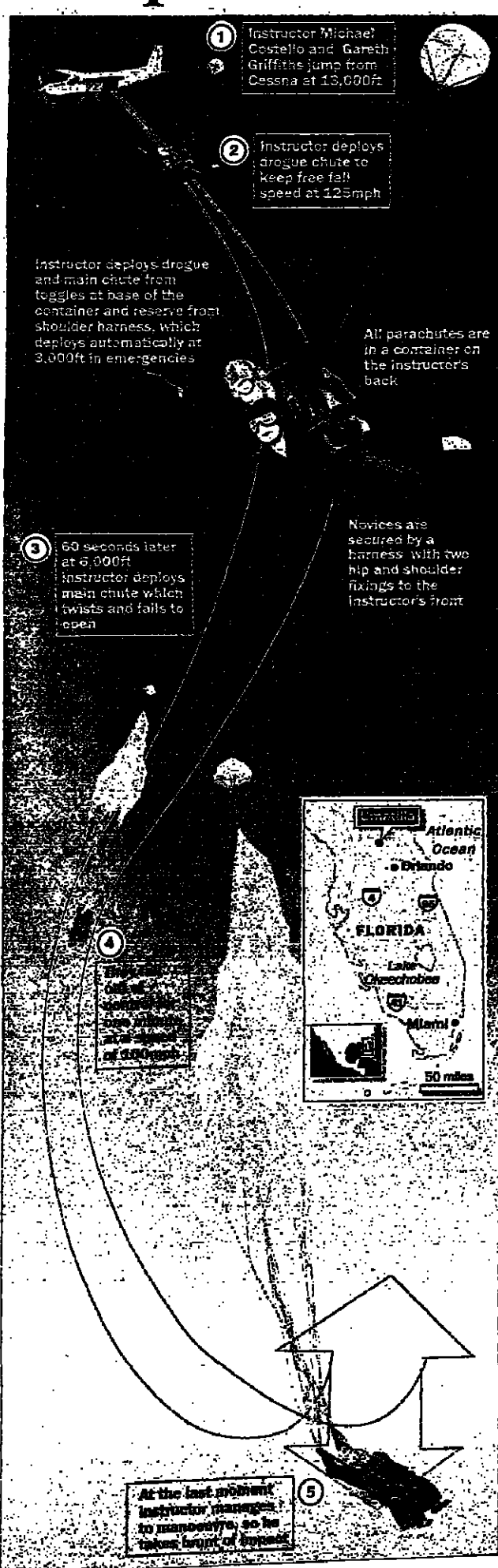
Angus Reith, deputy fiscal, said the calls had caused the women anxiety and inconvenience. Cronin's solicitor, Alex Prentice, said that his client had not had a sexual motive, had not singled out women, did not wish to alarm and was only interested in discussing politics. He said that Cronin agreed he needed help and that treatment arranged while he was in prison previously had not been completed.

Sheriff Brian Donald told Cronin: "If I were to send you to prison I suspect you would be out in two or three months and I expect the same problems would continue to arise."

"I am going to give you the opportunity of being helped. If you do not accept that advice or reoffend in any other way, you will be brought back to court and dealt with for this offence and probably go to prison."

Judy X was not available for comment yesterday but female party workers, who did not want to be named, said: "This man is a crank, and a dangerous one at that. He should be locked up."

## Hero saved skydiver as parachutes failed



Continued from page 1 is an instructor's priority to make sure his student is safe but we all just feel Mr Costello is a hero and we would like to say how sorry we feel for his family."

Mr Costello, had been parachuting for 18 years and had jumped 7,500 times and taught almost 2,000 people according to Wilma Godwin, 49, the owner of Paragators. "He is a hero, he gave his life to save the student. He knew what he was doing and made the ultimate sacrifice in the end."

"He somehow managed to flip over so he cushioned the young man. He must have landed on his back because he was doing all he could for Gareth. Mike saved his life. He would have done that. He was that type of guy."

Mr Costello who has been married for five years leaves a widow Sandy, 40 but no children.

Mrs Costello said last night that Mr Griffiths' survival was "a comfort" to her. She said of her husband's action: "It was very intentional, and we know that if he had survived, he would have done it again. He had tremendous experience, and loved parachuting and flying." Mr Griffiths' twin brother, David, said "That man was a hero. He gave his life to Gareth and we will be eternally grateful for that."

"My brother still hasn't been told that the instructor was killed."

The six friends who were on the first day of their course had split into two groups of three to jump from an 1987 Cessna Caravan at 13,000ft. They were filmed as each of them made their first sky dive with an instructor harnessed to their back.

John Mathews, a close friend of the Costellos, who have no children, told how Mr Griffiths jumped with the second group. "Michael and Gareth were the middle tandem to go. The others could see something was wrong."

After the two men jumped from about 12,000 feet all appeared normal for the first seconds as they enjoyed the thrill of diving freefall. But at 6,000ft as they fell at 125 mph the main chute only partially opened and appeared to twist like a streamer. A second emergency parachute also malfunctioned or became entangled in the main chute.

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# The parking bay that costs £12,000

Robin Young reports on Mayfair prices in Polperro

FOUR parking bays at Polperro, the Cornish fishing village and tourist attraction, have been sold for £12,000 each. The price is equivalent to 50 million an acre, dearer than the most sought-after parts of London.

A row of five garages has been snapped up at £15,000 apiece. Polperro, built up the sides of a valley around an old harbour, is a mecca for tourists desperate for parking spaces. Many houses in the village are owned by wealthy second-homeers.

The garages and outdoor parking bays have been sold by a shopkeeper whose identity is being kept secret by the estate agent, Tom Woodley. Mr Woodley admitted that even he was surprised at the price of the parking bays.

But he added: "Parking is very difficult. You cannot park in a side street because they are all too narrow and there are parking restrictions everywhere. There is a lot of

money in Polperro and, for people who buy cottages to let, a parking space is the icing on the cake. It could make the difference between letting your house or not."

The 15ft by 6ft parking spaces cost £133 a square foot. No building or camping will be allowed on them and the new owner will not be able to run a business from the site. A fifth parking bay still awaits a buyer at the same price as the others.

The most expensive property in London is to be found in Berkeley Square and costs about £52 a square foot, according to the estate agents Knight Frank. The cost of a typical covered parking space in Mayfair is about £40,000.

One property specialist described £133 a square foot for the outdoor spaces in Polperro as "obscenely expensive".

Villagers seemed to agree. Roy Toms, a butcher, said: "These prices are a bit much.

The real villagers will not be able to afford them."

Jim Beddoes owns the 700-space car park at the top of the village which is used by most day-trippers and tourists. He said: "I do an annual rent of £100 a year for locals, with an individual parking space with a chain across it. If you bought one of the spaces being sold in the village, you would have to live a long time to get your £12,000 back — 120 years, in fact."

A motorist plagued by thieves and vandals has been given a safe personal parking space by her council. Anne Moore's car has been targeted five times in council car parks in the past two years.

The final straw came when thieves jacked up her Ford Escort on bricks and stole the wheels. Mrs Moore, who works for a stockbroking firm, complained to council officials at Norwich and has been allocated a bay next to the car park's security centre.



View of the bay: a Polperro car space sold for the equivalent of £133 a square foot. Property in Berkeley Square costs £52 a square foot

Saturday in THE TIMES



PLAYING TO WIN Michelle Pfeiffer on motherhood, movies and men

MAGAZINE

## Lesbian couples 'are best parents'

By Ian Murray

LESBIAN couples make the best parents, according to a survey by psychologists from Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium.

They found that children brought up by lesbians formed better relationships with their second "social" mothers than children in conventional families formed with their fathers. The study said that both boys and girls raised with lesbians were well adjusted.

The research, presented yesterday to the European Conference on Human Reproduction in Edinburgh, was based on research among nearly 100 families of three different types: one of lesbian mothers with children conceived by donor insemination, another of heterosexual couples who had had fertility treatment, and the third of couples who had had children naturally. The children were all aged between four and eight.

The answers revealed that the overall quality of family relationships did not differ, but that the interaction between the social lesbian mother and child "was superior to that of the father and the child in both types of heterosexual family".

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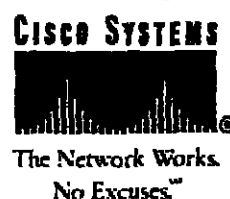
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Jeffrey A. ...



# Newnham chief stands by job for transsexual

BY EMMA WILKINS

SENIOR staff and students at Newnham College united yesterday in support of the transsexual physicist who has become a fellow of the all-female college. Rachel Padman, who was born male, was a distinguished and highly valued member of the Cambridge college, Onora O'Neill, Newnham's principal, said.

The appointment has caused dissension at the college, which was founded for women in 1871. Germaine Greer, a fellow of Newnham and member of the college's governing body, is the leading opponent of the appointment, claiming that the statutes were broken because Dr Padman is still regarded as a man under English law.

Last night, in an interview with *The Times*, Dr O'Neill said that, before making the appointment last October, she examined Newnham's statutes, which stipulate that fellows must be women. After taking advice from senior lawyers and colleagues, she decided that the appointment was valid.

"Dr Padman has been accepted as a woman as a member of the scientific community for many years," Dr O'Neill said. "She has marked out a distinguished career for herself as a woman, she has a passport as a woman, and the only thing she does not have is a woman's birth certificate."

"This is an area in which the



Padman: respected at women's college

law is changing, and I consulted very widely before making the appointment. The consensus was that it did not raise legal problems, and the decision was taken that there was no legal impediment to her appointment."

Dr O'Neill said that Dr Greer was entitled to bring her concerns before the governing body, which is made up of the college's 40 fellows. "I have some sympathy with Dr Greer's view and I see what she is thinking. It is her task to present the governing body with the issues if she wants to."

The appointment is in accordance with the university's general policy on sex change. "Since the early 1970s, it has been university practice to abide by an individual's deci-

sion to change their sex, providing that the decision is taken with serious intent and after due consideration. Each case is treated with the utmost discretion," Dr O'Neill said.

Senior staff at Newnham said that they hoped Dr Padman did not feel that she had to resign. "She is a very honourable woman and she feels very strongly about the reputation of the college," one leading academic said. "We all hope she does not resign over this, as she is an excellent and well-liked colleague."

Dr Padman, 43, who carries an Australian passport giving her gender as female, won widespread support from students. Dulcie McBride, a biology student at Newnham and former president of the junior common room, said that Dr Padman was highly respected for her commitment to teaching physics. "I have spoken to a number of undergraduates and I have only heard rave reviews of Dr Padman. Everyone thinks she is a very good teacher and the students are very supportive of her. It is her qualities as a teacher that are important, not her gender. We absolutely don't want her to resign," Miss McBride said.

Denise Burford, women's officer at Cambridge University Students' Union, said: "While I fully support women-only institutions, to take the legal definition of women as sacred seems anti-feminist."

Letters, page 21

## 'She has every right to be regarded as a woman'

BY MARK HENDERSON

ONE of Britain's leading gynaecologists last night criticised Germaine Greer for her opposition to Newnham College's appointment of Rachel Padman.

Lord Winston, Professor of Fertility Studies at London University, said: "I have had a wide experience of people who have had this operation, and they have every right to be regarded as women. I find it surprising that a feminist like Germaine Greer should be concerned about this."

Lord Winston said that, although a male-to-female transsexual remained legally male, she would almost always be psychologically female and should be accepted as such. He said that biological gender was less important than psychological gender.

Dr Greer opposed Dr

Padman's appointment because she is legally male and Newnham College's rules allow only female fellows. "We have driven a coach and horses through our statutes," Dr Greer said.

Lord Winston said that Dr Greer's view that sex-change operations were mutilations was "over-emotional and wrong".

Dr Greer's opinions on transsexuals are a far cry from those expressed in her 1971 book, *The Female Eunuch*, when she described April Ashley, who was born a man but had a sex-change operation, as "our sister and our symbol".

The change in stance is the latest in a catalogue of about-turns. Although she celebrated cosmetics in 1971, she said of the columnist Suzanne Moore when the two fell out in

1995: "So much lipstick must rot the brain."

She has spoken out regularly against violence against women, yet last year she described Paul Gascoigne, who admitted beating his wife, as a man of "evident generosity of spirit", who should be celebrated as a cultural icon.

Dr Greer attacked Margaret Thatcher as an enemy of feminism throughout the 1980s, but changed her mind when the former Prime Minister was ousted in 1990. "Women everywhere, including the most strident women of the Opposition, salute her," she said. "Because of her, every middle-aged woman waiting in the queue at the butcher's can tell herself that there may be a great statesperson sleeping within her."



Stevan Popovic with his wife Dragica and their grandchildren Joseph and Kathryn

## Mugger who killed partisan war hero is jailed for life

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A MUGGER with a ten-year record of violent crime was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for murdering a 74-year-old Second World War resistance hero.

Clive Jones, 26, of Gipton, Leeds, looked on Stevan Popovic as easy prey when the retired bus driver with a weak heart took a wrong turning in his ageing Lada car and ended up in a back street of Chapeltown, an area notorious for crime.

Jones, who was identified by his distinctive hairstyle at the time, called Cane Row plaits and resembling a pineapple, struck on Easter Saturday last year. Mr Popovic had become lost and tried to reverse in an alley. Ignoring the old man's screams, Jones hauled him from his car and beat him.

Leeds Crown Court was told that Jones had convictions for robbery and assault dating back to 1987. In 1990 he was sentenced at Birmingham to 30 months in a young offenders' institution for robbing prostitutes' clients.

Witnesses heard Mr Popo-

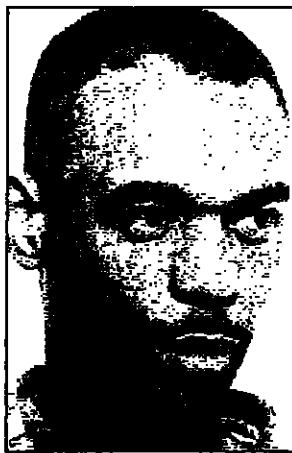
vic shouting "Help me" but Jones threatened him with a knife, kicked him to the ground and ordered: "Give me the money. I am going to kill you." He robbed the victim of his watch, wedding ring and £50.

Mr Popovic tried to run alongside as the car was driven away and was dragged along by his wrist, which was trapped in the driver's window. Eventually his hand came free and he collapsed in the road.

He suffered eight fractures to his ribs and severe injuries to wrists, legs and head and died three hours later from a heart attack in St James's University Hospital.

Jones told the court that he had found the Lada abandoned and afterwards spent 45 minutes with a policeman's wife. But the prosecution presented an abundance of forensic science evidence linking him to the crime.

Mr Popovic, a grandfather and a leading member of the Serbian community in the North West, had set out to pick up a friend from the



Jones: drove off with victim trapped by arm

Adriatic Hotel in Chapeltown, to attend a meeting of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Leicester.

Mr Popovic, known as Uncle Pop to his friends in Shaw, near Oldham, where he lived, helped refugees in Yugoslavia to flee to the West from the Communist regime. When Hitler invaded in 1941, he took to the mountains to join the Chetniks in their guerrilla campaign, a role for which he was decorated. After the war,

the university graduate fled his homeland in the Krajina region — now part of Croatia — for a new life in the West.

He came to Britain with £1 in his pocket and was reunited with his sweetheart Dragica, whom he had met in a German refugee camp in 1943.

The couple, hard-working and deeply religious, were married in Rochdale on January 19, 1952. They had two sons, Milan, now 43, and Aleks, 40. Mr Popovic worked first as a baker and then on buses, as a conductor and a driver. Ill health forced his retirement at the age of 59.

He was vice-chairman of the Association of Serbian Chetniks in England and Wales. More than 300 Serbs attended his funeral.

After his death, Mrs Popovic, 66, described Britain as a place which provided a refuge but which had changed for the worse. Yesterday she said: "My husband was a brave man who fought for his beliefs during the war. He would want us to carry on with our lives, but we will never forget him or what he stood for."

## Sixth form high-flyers refused degree interviews

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

HIGH-FLYING independent school sixth-formers are being rejected for university places in growing numbers without so much as an interview, according to a survey published yesterday.

Almost 500 top-rated candidates from leading schools, many expected to achieve straight As at A level, were turned down before receiving their results. The trend represents a 20 per cent increase on last year, when the schools said that some universities appeared to be biased against the independent sector.

In some cases, candidates expected to achieve four As at A level were rejected by medical schools. National prize-winners and a member of the British team at last year's Biology Olympiad were among others who had to rely on clearing or switch to another subject to win a degree place.

The survey, carried out in 165 schools belonging to the two leading independent school associations, found a 33 per cent increase in the schools concerned about university entrance. Medicine, English and law were the subjects most likely to produce unexpected rejections.

Head teachers complained that the sheer volume of applications in some subjects was preventing admissions officers from considering candidates fully. Some universities were thought to be operating "hidden criteria", such as the number of top GCSE grades required.

Janet Lawley, the Headmistress of Bury Grammar School, in Lancashire, who co-chaired the working party carrying out the research, said: "Most students do obtain a place, but the pressure on places in some subjects means that too much is left to chance."

The schools are still pressing for university places to be allocated on the basis of actual A levels, rather than predictions. They are hoping that Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education, to be published next month, will renew the pressure on universities to alter the system.

Applications for university places are up again this year, especially in popular subjects. English, for example, has attracted 12.5 per cent more applications than in 1996.

Jess Enderby, a spokesman for the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said: "The pressure on the most popular areas is such that universities do not have the time to interview large numbers of candidates."

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# Poverty gap widens for class of 1970

Poorest of a generation are trapped in deprivation while privileged prosper even more, Alexandra Frean reports

THE gulf between the haves and the have-nots is growing among men and women born in 1970, with the emergence of a new underclass "trapped in a vicious downward spiral" on the margins of society.

A study of 9,000 people born in the same week 26 years ago paints a picture of a fractured and increasingly polarised society in which the children of well-off parents prosper, while those from less privileged backgrounds sink further into poverty and social deprivation.

The survey, conducted by researchers at City University in London also shows that people who have had children by the age of 26 are far more likely than their peers to have a low standard of living and poor job prospects.

Professor John Bynner, director of the Social Statistics Research Unit at the univer-

sity, which has followed the progress of the 9,000 since their birth, said that the children of 1970 could be divided into three distinct groups — those who were getting on, with degrees and good jobs; those who were getting by, with few qualifications and at the mercy of economic conditions; and those who were getting nowhere, without qualifications and on benefit.

The inability of some in the most disadvantaged group to steer their lives successfully and cope well was associated with increasing depression, anxiety and despair, the study shows. This had deepened their sense of social exclusion.

Elsa Ferri, co-author of the report, said that the survey showed a marked difference in prospects for the poorest groups from previous generations. In particular those born in 1958, now aged 39, for

whom a similar study had been conducted.

Poor performance in school among the 1970 babies and the vast reduction in the number of manual and unskilled jobs were partly to blame. The availability of work for the unskilled of the older generation meant they had not been without hope, or marginalised so completely.

Ms Ferri said that the "Getting Nowhere" group should now become the focus of government policy. "There are the people who have not been able to cope with the tremendous changes to society. They are becoming marginalised by society and need to be provided with the means to rejoin it," she said.

To get back into the mainstream of society, they needed to be provided with adequate skills and training, which would equip them for the needs of a rapidly changing labour market. "A lot of these people who did the YTS (Youth Training Scheme), but it did not work. It tended to serve as a warehousing function, keeping kids off the streets rather than being a genuine ladder to a job," she said.

The findings of the survey will strike a chord with the new Government, which has made it a priority to end benefit dependency and get the long-term young unemployed and lone parents back into work. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and David Blunkett, the education secretary, are hosting a breakfast meeting today for 40 heads of industry, to brief them about the Government's welfare-to-work plans.

When a woman takes a full-time job, the typical male partner will increase his contribution to household work by one hour a week, according to the British Household Panel Survey. In sharp contrast, if a man gets a full-time job, having previously not had any paid work, his partner increases her contribution to the housework by about five hours a week.

Professor Richard Berthoud, co-author of the report, said: "The overall implication seems to be that, where both husband and wife go out to work, the woman is still expected to come home and make his tea."



Separated by time: children born in 1970 have been split by an increasingly polarised society, with some sliding into an underclass

## Women give birth later in life – or not at all

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE trend towards later motherhood was confirmed yesterday with a study showing that women in their early thirties are more likely to have children than those in their early twenties.

While many women are waiting until they have established a career before having children, a substantial number are remaining childless. There has been an increase in childless women, with almost one in four having no children compared with one in ten in the early Sixties.

But the most marked trend has been the increase in fertility rates for women in their thirties since the 1970s as the proportion of women in the workplace has risen, according to the latest

edition of *Population Trends* from the Office of National Statistics.

John Craig, who analysed the findings, said: "Fertility rates for women aged 20 to 24 have been falling steadily since the 1970s. At one time the rate for the 20-24 group was far above the rate of the 30-34 group."

His study found that in 1994 the number of live births per thousand women was 90 for those aged 30-34 compared with 80 for women aged 20-24. Women in their late thirties are also producing more children than those aged 15-19. There are 38 births per thousand in the older group, compared with 25 in the younger group.

The number of women

remaining childless is also having an effect on the trend towards smaller families. Women born in the mid-1930s have an average family of 2.45 children, compared with 2.0 children for women born in 1955. For those born in the late 1960s the figure is expected to fall to 1.85, and to 1.8 for women born after 1975.

The study found that four in ten marriages end in divorce and the break-up rate among couples living together was even higher. About 28 per cent of all children will, before they are aged 16, have the experience of their natural parents parting.

*Population Trends* (Stationery Office, £16.50)

## Half of Britons 'will have cancer in next 20 years'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people with cancer will rise by two thirds in the next 20 years, according to a study which predicts that the number of cases diagnosed each day will be more than 1,000.

At present one person in three is at risk of developing cancer during their life, but over the next 20 years the proportion will rise to one in two. The figure excludes non-melanoma skin cancer, which currently accounts for 30,000 cases a year, because it is usually treatable.

The researchers, from the East Anglian Cancer Intelligence Unit at Cambridge University, give three reasons for the predicted increase. One is the growth in the number of elderly people, who are more prone to the disease. Another is that improved treatment

means more people are living with cancer.

The third reason is a surge in cases of particular types of cancer. The risk of men developing prostate cancer is forecast to triple, affecting one in four of the male population by 2018. Breast cancer is expected to affect one woman in seven in 20 years' time instead of about one in ten.

Lung cancer is expected to drop among men, from one in seven to under one in ten, because smoking has declined. Among women, however, lung cancer is expected to double to one in five. This is because women took up smoking on a large scale 20 to 30 years after men, and the incidence of this type of cancer among them is catching up. The research was conducted for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

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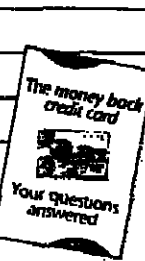
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# Lawrence family win race violence inquiry

Questions will be asked of police and prosecutors, Stewart Tandler writes

AN INQUIRY into racial violence and the way it is handled by the police and prosecuting authorities is expected to be set up by the Government after the killing of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, wants the proposed investigation to be headed by a judge, but it will not have the status of a full judicial inquiry nor be a review of the murder.

Mr Straw told the parents of Stephen Lawrence at a meeting in the Home Office yesterday that there was a strong case for an inquiry into the killing of their son at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London, in April, 1993. The family have strongly criticised the police and prosecution authorities for their failure to secure a conviction for the death of Stephen, 18.

It is understood that any inquiry will not focus exclusively on Stephen's death, but will use his killing as a starting point to look at the way the authorities reacted. Mr Straw told Neville and Doreen Lawrence, the dead teenager's parents, that he hoped to be able to make an announcement about it before the summer recess next month. But first he must secure support from the Prime Minister

and from his other senior Cabinet colleagues.

The family have said the inquiry must address the role of the police after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped charges against two white youths and a private prosecution collapsed when the evidence of a key witness was ruled inadmissible. Earlier this year an inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing by a gang of white youths in an unprovoked racial attack.

The Home Secretary said in his statement yesterday that the case could not be left to rest. A strong case had been made by Mrs Lawrence for some form of inquiry and he would carefully consider other issues raised during the meeting and reflect upon the best way to address widespread concern resulting from the case.

Mr Straw had met the family while he was an Opposition MP and yesterday he paid tribute to Mrs Lawrence's determination and courage. He said he had been deeply moved by the family's account of the circumstances surrounding the murder.

The family want the case to be examined by a judicial inquiry which

would question the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. Home Office sources suggested any inquiry was likely to be far more wide-ranging and would look at issues such as racially motivated crime and relations between police and ethnic communities.

If the Home Secretary decides on an inquiry, he has a number of options. Instead of appointing a High Court judge, Mr Straw could set up an inquiry chaired by a senior lawyer or a distinguished layman. The inquiry could hear evidence in public or private.

After yesterday's meeting Imran Khan, the Lawrence family's solicitor, said: "We are hopeful that he will conclude that an inquiry is necessary. I think we all came away feeling very positive that we will have some inquiry."

Mrs Lawrence was less certain about the form the inquiry would take. She said that she believed an inquiry was now the only way that the truth about Stephen's death could be established, but she was not optimistic.

"There was no clear indication," she said. "He said that, from what we put to him, there was a case, but where he is going to go with it, I have no idea."



Stephen Lawrence's parents, Neville and Doreen, yesterday. They brought an unsuccessful private prosecution

## Solicitor guilty of dishonesty over Levitt loan

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING financial solicitor was guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation when he helped the disgraced City tycoon Roger Levitt to negotiate a multimillion-pound loan to buy into Arsenal Football Club, three Court of Appeal judges ruled yesterday.

The judges, headed by Lord Justice Nourse, reversed a decision by Mr Justice Knox in the High Court that William Binks, senior partner in Binks Stern, was not involved in dishonesty.

The City merchant bankers Henry Ansbacher lent Levitt £25 million in September 1990 after receiving a letter from Mr Binks confirming that the financier was selling stakes in Levitt Group to two leading insurance companies.

But the appeal judges found that Mr Binks, who acted for Levitt in the transactions, knew that the contracts had been completed months earlier and that their security value was nil. Three months later the Levitt Group collapsed, with debts estimated by the Official Receiver at up to £51 million.

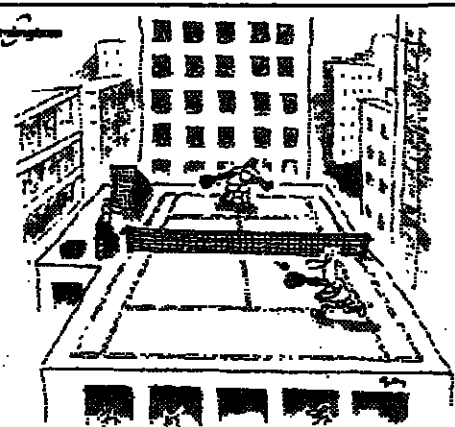
Levitt resigned as chairman and chief executive of the company, which had 18,000 clients. Once listed as one of

the 100 richest men in the country, he was made bankrupt and accused of stealing £20 million from his clients. He was sentenced to 180 hours' community service after admitting lesser charges at Southwark Crown Court.

The solicitors were yesterday given 21 days to repay the loan to Ansbacher's with interest, a total of £3.8 million. Binks Stern said it was planning an appeal to the House of Lords. Mr Binks, who retired from Binks Stern in 1992 aged 70, was insured against the liability.

Lord Justice Nourse said that Mr Justice Knox had acted out of "natural sympathy" for Mr Binks and had "failed to appreciate the inevitable consequence of his findings that Mr Binks knew that the representation that he was still acting for Mr Levitt in relation to the share sale agreements was untrue".

The appeal judges said the bank partly relied on Mr Binks's letter, which was never withdrawn or corrected, to make their decision over the loan. After Levitt was exposed as a "fraudulent rogue", Ansbacher lost the money they had lent to him in the ensuing bankruptcy.



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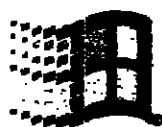
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# Asda boss gets job of revitalising Tory headquarters

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE man who transformed the fortunes of the loss-making Asda supermarket chain has been given the task of performing a similar operation on Conservative Central Office.

Archie Norman, the newly elected Tory MP for Tunbridge Wells, was appointed party vice-chairman yesterday. He already has plans to modernise the party headquarters, details of which were shown to William Hague and two of the other leadership contenders before the final round of voting last week. The Norman plan is now at the top of the Opposition leader's in-tray.

Central Office is deeply in debt, has no control over the actions of its local associations, and has no up-to-date party membership list. Mr Norman has been asked by Mr Hague to modernise the

party machinery to make it an equivalent fighting force to the one mobilised by Labour at the election. He will work closely with Lord Parkinson, the new party chairman.

Mr Norman's task is a tall order. But when he arrived at Asda in 1991 the chain was £1 billion in debt. He is now chairman and the company is a profitable market leader.

His appointment was widely welcomed on the Tory backbenches as the finishing touches was put to Mr Hague's shadow team.

Alan Duncan, who is Parliamentary Political Secretary to Mr Hague and based in his Commons office, has been made a vice-chairman. It will give him a base in Central Office and ensure a bridge between Mr Hague and the party headquarters.

There was no room for Ann Widdecombe, whose public

criticism of Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign secretary, helped to destroy his party leadership ambitions.

Labour is certain to exploit the fact that only three women have been appointed to the 52 front-bench posts. But there were only 13 women Tory MPs to choose from, compared with the 101 Labour women MPs. Miss Widdecombe, who was ideally qualified to fill one of the posts, was ruled out because of her attack on Mr Howard.

Three victims of Tory sleaze in the last Parliament have been rehabilitated. David Willetts, who resigned as Paymaster General shortly before the general election after being accused of dissembling to a Commons committee, has been appointed as a junior employment spokesman. He would have been given a Shadow Cabinet post had he



not fallen foul of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee.

Tim Yeo, who stood down as a minister over the disclosure that he had fathered a child outside his marriage, is Sir Norman Fowler's deputy at Environment, Transport and the Regions. Mr Yeo was a big influence on the Hague campaign team and brought over many MPs on the Left.

Patrick Nicholls, who resigned as vice-chairman of the party, has been given his third and possibly final comeback chance. He resigned as a junior Environment Minister at the 1990 Tory Party conference after being charged with drink-driving. He was brought back by John Major as a vice-chairman but stood down in 1994 after publishing an attack on "German war-

mongers and French collaborators".

The new team was also conspicuous by its omissions. There was no room for Nicholas Soames, the larger-than-life former Defence Minister. David Maclean, who was Michael Howard's deputy at the Home Office, has also been left out at his own request. David Davis, the aggressive former Foreign Office Minister, made clear that he did not want a job. He is working on a book about the future of the Tory Party.

One of the biggest mysteries is the absence of the Thatcherite Eric Forth, who was Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment. As the manager of Peter Lilley's campaign team, who made an effortless switch to William Hague in round two, he might have expected a Shadow Cabinet post. But he was offered only a junior position, which he rejected. "I think I can make a positive contribution on the back benches," he said.

Another surprise exclusion was John Whittingdale, a former political secretary to Margaret Thatcher. He was instrumental in securing the endorsement of the former Prime Minister for Mr Hague on the third round.

## IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debate; from 2.30pm, international development questions; questions to the Prime Minister; debate initiated by Tories on future of London Underground; debate initiated by Tories on charging for NHS services; backbench debate on Gulf War syndrome. In the Lords: debate on electoral reform.

## Tories condemn debate change

THE Government hinted yesterday that it will curtail debate and breach parliamentary convention over the passage of its Scottish and Welsh devolution measures through the House of Commons (James Landale writes).

Ann Taylor, leader of the Commons, said that the Government's constitutional Bills might not be discussed at committee stage by all MPs on

the floor of the chamber. In a memorandum to the Modernisation Committee, which is considering changes to Commons procedure, she suggested that they would receive better scrutiny if considered by a limited number of MPs in a standing committee.

The Tories fiercely oppose the move, which they say would stifle debate. Liam Fox, an opposition spokesman on

constitutional affairs, said it was a sign of the Government's arrogance.

The committee stages of constitutional Bills are normally debated on the floor of the House because MPs feel they should all have a say on issues of such importance. But ministers are concerned that the Tories could use the process to clog up the Government's parliamentary business.

## What now for new Labour's lobby troops?

You are a new Labour MP, the euphoria of victory on May 1 has worn off, you have found your way round Westminster, you have delivered your maiden speech, you have just about organised your Commons office and your constituency surgeries. The novelty of sitting on the green benches is beginning to wane and it is getting a bit tedious trooping through the hot and crowded division lobbies to give the Government a majority of 200 or more. What do you do now?

Your friendly Whips' Office has an answer. Instead of the rough and tough disciplinary of the late 1970s, we now have the caring and sharing social workers of the late 1990s. They send friendly messages of information and thanks to you via personal pagers. Events are organised to make you and other newcomers feel wanted and to keep you in touch with ministers, who solicitously seek your advice. And, now, roughly fifty new MPs a week are being allowed off from Westminster to spend time in their constituencies and with their families. But is this really what being elected to the Commons is all about?

The Government has an ambivalent view of Parliament. Nick Brown and Peter Mandelson have made it plain that MPs were elected to implement a new Labour platform. But, at the same time, the Government is committed to reforming the parliamentary procedures.

Ann Taylor, leader of the Commons, yesterday set out some of the Government's ideas on handling legislation. She has a number of welcome proposals for improving scrutiny, including more extensive consultation by government in preparation of Bills and more systematic examination by the Commons and its committees once a Bill has been published. There is merit in trying to identify practical flaws as early as possible and also in monitoring later implementation more closely.

But as in all ministerial inspired proposals for reform there is a tension between allowing the Government to get through its legislation

more smoothly and strengthening the role of Parliament. It is implicit in Mrs Taylor's paper that the Government, rather than the Commons, will decide whether new Bills will be subject to more extensive scrutiny and inquiries by MPs. She has said elsewhere that these procedures might be suitable for Bills that are not the subject of fierce party divisions. But it is often the big controversial Bills that should be scrutinised more closely. The parties may not agree on the broad thrust of the measures, but there is still a role for Parliament to see if even bitterly contested Bills can be made to work better in practice.

The Commons works on a fine balance of the Government's majority (at present huge and certain), the Opposition's right to have its say and informal conventions. For instance, for the past 50 years it has been accepted that Bills of "first-class constitutional importance" have all their stages on the floor of the House to ensure full scrutiny. But Mrs Taylor tentatively suggested a "more flexible" approach whereby parts of such Bills would be scrutinised off the floor by a standing committee. This will be fiercely resisted by the Tories. They have a point, but it is the wrong one. Mrs Taylor's idea should not be dismissed out of hand, but should form part of a more general review of how Parliament considers constitutional Bills.

At present, Commons reform is being examined in a piecemeal way. But a broader view is necessary — of the wood as well as the trees — looking at the interests of Parliament and the Opposition, and of whether we want MPs to take seriously the work of scrutiny as well as obediently trooping through the lobbies. There could even be something for all the new MPs to do at Westminster, as well as in their constituencies.

PETER RIDDELL

## William Hague's frontbench team

William Hague, the Conservative Party leader, has assembled his frontbench team as follows (Shadow Cabinet members in bold):

Party leader	William Hague
Treasury	Peter Lilley
Shadow Chief Secretary	David Heathcoat-Amory
	Tim Boswell
Home Affairs	Brian Mawhinney
	James Clappison
	John Greenway
Foreign Affairs	Michael Howard
	Gary Streeter
	David Faber
Internal Development	Alastair Goodlad

Health	John Maples
	Michael Jack
Social Security	Iain Duncan Smith
	Simon Burns
Education and Employment	Stephen Dorrell
	David Willetts (employment)
	Angela Browning (education)
Constitutional Affairs, Scotland and Wales	Michael Ancram
	Liam Fox
	Nigel Evans
	Bernard Jenkin
Northern Ireland	Andrew Mackay
	Ian Taylor

Trade and Industry	John Redwood
	Michael Fallon
	Cheryl Gillan
National Heritage	Francis Maude
	Patrick Nicholls
Defence	Sir George Young
	Robert Key
Environment, Transport and the Regions	Sir Norman Fowler
	Tim Yeo
	Christopher Chope
Agriculture	David Curry
	James Paice
Shadow Leader of the Commons	Gillian Shephard
Deputy	Sir Patrick Cormack

Lord Chancellor's Department	Lord Kingsland
	Edward Garnier
Law Officer	Sir Nicholas Lyell
Chief Whip	John Arbutnot
Deputy Chief Whip	Peter Ainsworth
Pairing whip	Patrick McLoughlin
Other whips	Richard Ottaway
	Malcolm Moss
Shadow Leader of the Lords	Viscount Cranborne
Chief Whip	Lord Stratheide
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Vice-chairman	Alan Duncan
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# Pots and trams join giants of museum world

By LIN JENKINS

SOME of the country's smallest museums, featuring collections ranging from trams to pottery, yesterday found themselves elevated to a "premier league" alongside such institutions as the Ashmolean and the Courtauld Gallery.

Twenty-six museums have been awarded a place on the list in recognition of their excellence. They include the National Tramway Museum at Crich, Derbyshire, and the collection on the history of pottery in England at the Stoke-on-Trent Museum.

The Wordsworth Trust, at the poet's former home at Grasmere in the Lake District, and the Rural History Centre in Reading are also on the list announced by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, yesterday. It will eventually be extended to 50.

Among the better known institutions joining the Ashmolean in Oxford and the Courtauld in London are the Manchester City Art Galleries, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust in Shropshire, and the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire.

As he presented the first designation certificate to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden, London, Mr Smith said the scheme would help to focus attention on England's outstanding museums and enable them to

## CHARGES

The Government is to review charging arrangements at national museums to try to ensure they reach "the widest possible audience". Mark Fisher, a Minister at the Department of National Heritage, said the Government was concerned at the growth of entry charges. Ministers want to know why some museums, such as the Victoria and Albert and the Natural History Museum, have a fee, while the British Museum, for example, does not.

attract funding from the lottery and other sources.

"All kinds of museums are represented. Some are large institutions with a wide variety of collections. Others are small and more focused in a particular field," he said. He added that it was unlikely that they would receive much money from the Government.

"What designation brings is a status which makes museums attractive for a range of different funding, some of which may be in the private sector or the public sector, or the semi-public sector such as lottery money."

The 26 institutions include

ten science and technology collections and nine social history museums, as well as archaeology, fine arts, decorative arts and natural science displays.

They cover a wide geographic area: the Tyne and Wear Museum was recognised for its representation of local industries; the Horniman Museum in south London for its musical instrument and ethnographic collections. A Heritage Department spokesman said that the Jewish Museum in Camden, north London, although small, held collections crucial to the understanding of Jewish ritual in this country.

Timothy Mason, director of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said that museums had waited a long time for a scheme that recognised the importance of some of the best collections in England. "It is a celebration of some of the superb museums that we have. It is particularly good to see it is not only the big museums which are being recognised, but some of the smaller ones which are nevertheless important. These collections should be a source of local pride for the community."

Mr Smith said that as well as expanding the scheme to include a maximum of 50 "premier" museums, work was also beginning on a scheme to recognise smaller museums with local importance.



Sir David Puttnam, the film producer who has been appointed to the Government's Standards Task Force, visited St Vincent de Paul Primary School in central London yesterday with David Blunkett, the Education Secretary and chairman of the task

## Puttnam in standards drive

force, which the two men were launching (David Charter writes). Sir David said that, like many who had returned to study at night

school, including Mr Blunkett, he was a "zealot" for education. Sir David left school at 16 on the advice of his headmaster, with four O

levels, and later studied nine subjects at evening classes. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by six British universities for his film

work. He said yesterday that he would use his expertise and contacts to further the task force's aim of spreading good teaching practice in the three Rs. The group also includes teachers, academics, education officers and a businessman.

## Ferryman wins reward for finding Roman sculpture

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A FERRYMAN who stumbled across the Roman sculpture of a lioness on the banks of a Scottish river has been given a five-figure finder's reward.

Robert Graham, 37, the ferryman at Cramond, Edinburgh, was descending the ferry steps last November when he spotted a sandstone head peering out of the mud near the mouth of the Almond. Archaeologists later found that the 5ft by 2ft figure of a lioness devouring the head of a man had lain there for about 1,700 years and had been remarkably preserved. The

size of the reward was decided by Andrew Normand, Scotland's Crown Agent, but was being kept confidential. Mr Graham confirmed that it was a five-figure sum and enough to give his family a good holiday, buy a replacement secondhand car and invest for the future of his two young children. "I am glad I was the one who found it. It is such a beautiful thing," he said.

Mr Graham, who operates Scotland's shortest ferry service, linking Cramond Village

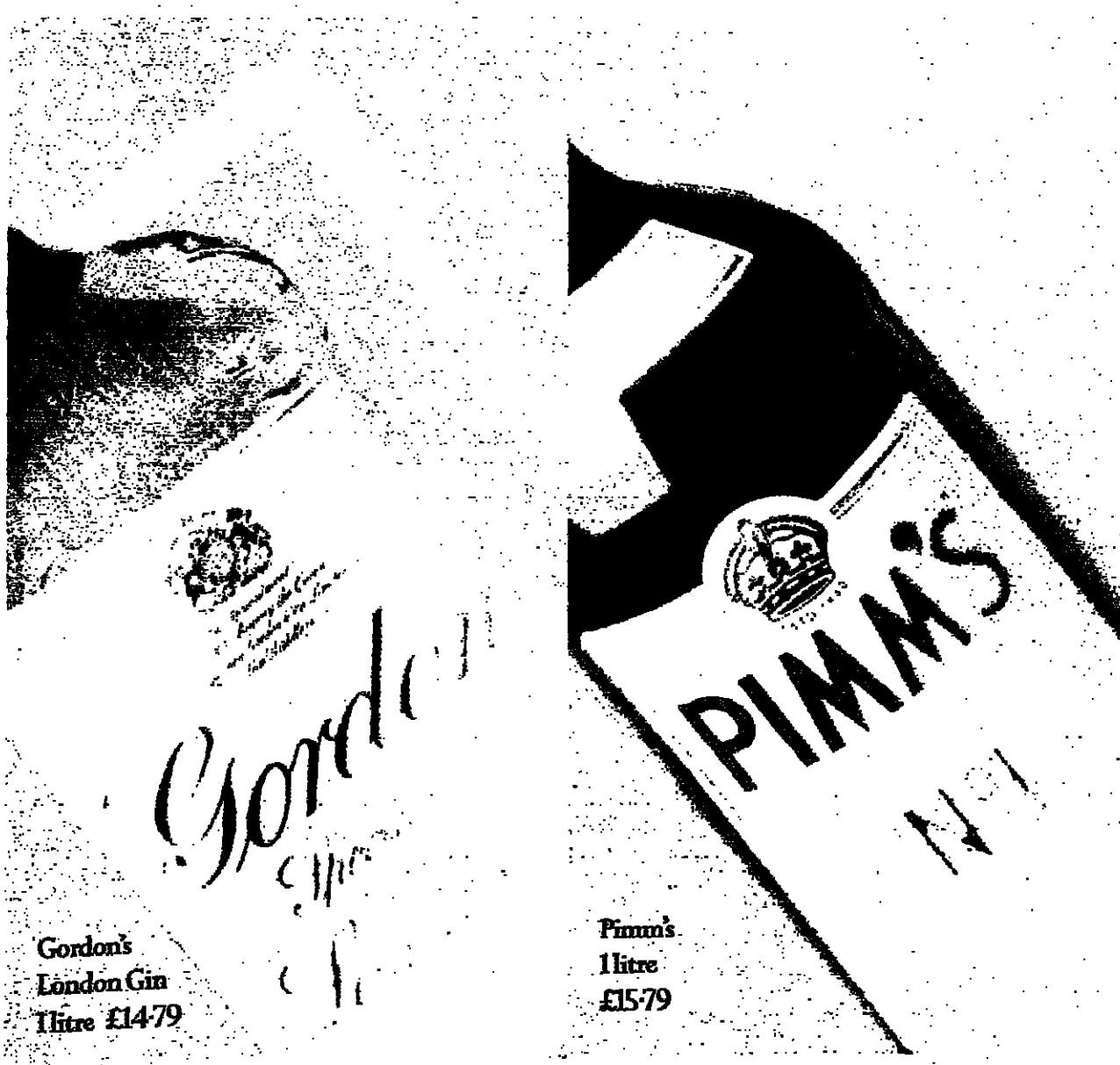
with the Earl of Rosebery's estate at Cramond, said that the nose of the lioness was just 3in from the steps. Not realising its importance, he began digging it out, thinking it "would be a nice piece for the garden". He covered it for safe keeping and forgot about it until after Christmas when he mentioned it to an amateur archaeologist.

The statue, said to be one of Britain's finest Roman relics, probably once guarded the tomb of a powerful Roman officer when Cramond was an important harbour.



Robert Graham, who spotted a figure in the mud

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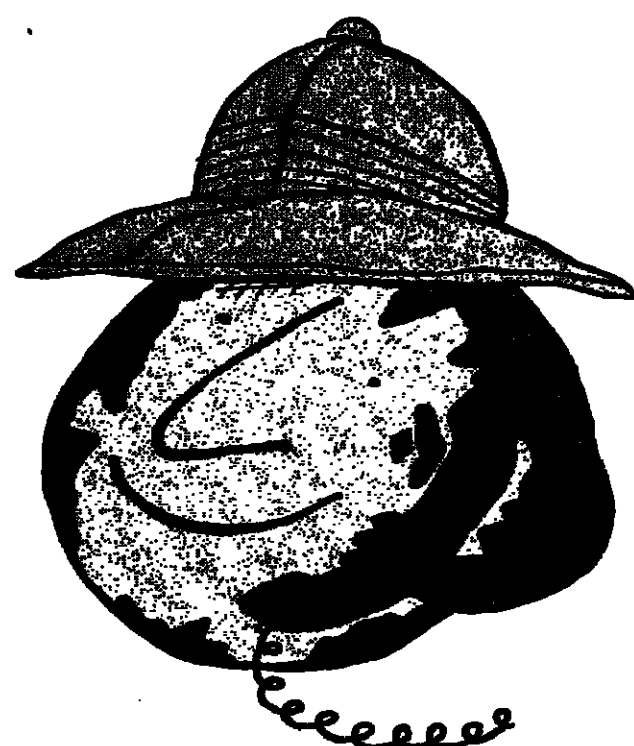
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# Nato chief in new attempt to resolve row on expansion

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

JAVIER SOLANA, the Nato Secretary-General, is to make a fresh attempt today to try to break the deadlock in the alliance over which countries to invite to join the Western security organisation at its summit next month.

Nato is still divided between those that support five new members from Central and Eastern Europe and those that want only three or possibly four. Nine Nato members are pushing for five more countries to join the alliance by 1999, in defiance of America's publicly announced decision to support only Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Nato diplomats sources agreed that the search for consensus among the present 16 members of Nato on its enlargement proposals was likely to continue "right up until the Madrid summit" on July 8, when the alliance is due to invite applicant countries to start accession negotiations.

British diplomats said that this was all part of the "end-game" and that by July 8 those countries now supporting five new members in the first wave, the three named plus Romania and Slovenia, would change their tune for the sake of Nato unity.

They also said that the nine — France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal — were not all firmly committed to having five new members. At least four, they said, were flexible. However, at this

stage, two weeks before the Nato summit in Madrid, only Iceland has come out firmly in favour of the US position for a first wave of three countries.

The rest of the alliance — Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and Norway — are either prepared to back three or four or have yet to make their position clear. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to announce his country's decision next Monday.

Some Nato diplomats said that alliance members resented being dictated to by the Americans and there was a reluctance to fall in line behind the US following the announcement on June 12 that America would back only Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary for membership in the first wave.

Señor Solana tried to find a

consensus last week in separate meetings with all the Nato ambassadors, described as "confessionals", but failed to mend the divisions. Further vain attempts were made by Nato government leaders at the Summit of Eight industrial countries in Denver. Now Señor Solana has arranged to consult the ambassadors again over the next few days, with the intention of reporting any progress to Nato's council next Monday.

Some hopes are being expressed that the Americans will back down in part by agreeing to let Slovenia join the alliance in the first wave. However, that was rejected by American diplomatic sources yesterday. They said that if Washington relented on Slovenia, "that would make it even worse for Romania".

Britain remains agnostic about Slovenia and is prepared to support its application, but is not keen on five new members in the first wave, fearing that it would be unmanageable.

Those supporting a larger expansion are also hoping that even if the US refuses to budge, it might agree to a form of words in the Madrid communiqué that would make clear that Romania and Slovenia would be guaranteed membership in the second wave "a year or two" after the first entrants had joined, in April 1999. But the idea of a written promise is rejected by the Americans and British.



Solana: to consult alliance ambassadors again



The Queen faces a crowd in Bonavista yesterday demonstrating against the treatment of natives by the English over the centuries

## Queen stirs Newfoundlanders' nostalgia for Britain

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

THE biggest festival in Newfoundland history was under way yesterday after the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in St John's to mark the 500th anniversary of British explorer John Cabot's arrival and claimed this rocky island for England and the merchants of Bristol.

A wooden copy of Cabot's ship *The Matthew*, built in Bristol over the past

five years, was waiting ten miles out at sea to arrive in triumph at the fishing town of Bonavista, where Cabot is believed to have first set foot. The Federal Government is spending about £7 million on the festivities. It was criticised earlier this year but organisers are talking about tourist receipts surpassing £10 million.

There is genuine excitement for this royal visit, the first to the island since 1978 and also the 40th anniversary of the Queen's first visit to Canada in

1957. There is a particularly strong link to Britain among Newfoundlanders. The island province only joined the confederation in 1949. Before that, it was Britain's oldest colony and many Newfoundlanders still consider themselves British subjects and Canadians only by virtue of having lost the referendum that united them to Canada. If it was not for the royal visit there would be little for residents of this desperate province to celebrate. It has the highest unemployment and the

lowest literacy rate in Canada and more than half its budget comes from the federal government.

On the first day of her visit in St John's the Queen planted a crab apple tree and attended a choral festival. The weather was terrible, but biting winds gusting up to 30mph along the coast and intermittent rain failed to dampen enthusiasm. Official dignitaries apologised to the Queen for the weather. She replied: "It could be worse."

## Unease grows between Paris and Bonn

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

RELATIONS between France and Germany are beginning to crackle with tension.

The latest blow came yesterday with criticism by Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, of the American drive for "hegemony".

Bonn officials privately were aghast at the comments, made in the French parlia-

ment, which run counter to the strategy of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to position an integrated Europe in a co-operative rather than a competitive relationship with Washington.

"The tone is all wrong," a Bonn official said. "This is the vocabulary of a bygone era."

The French attack on the United States comes hard on the heels of an exchange of rhetorical punches between

Paris and Bonn. Yesterday a senior member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, in alliance with Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats, suggested that economic and monetary union could be started without France if Paris failed to make the grade. That has been a taboo subject in Bonn until now; the assumption was always that a single currency without France and Germany would be meaningless.

However, Ingo Friedrich, the deputy CSU chairman, said it was "time to think the unthinkable", given that France may record a public sector deficit of at least 3.9 per cent of gross domestic product this year. That, he said, would be unacceptable. Herr Friedrich's comments came after Jacques Delors — now a Jospin adviser — attacked Germany for "arrogance" at the Amsterdam summit.

## US sex offenders face indefinite detention

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN sex offenders may be committed to mental hospitals indefinitely after they have served their prison sentence, even if they do not meet the standard criteria for psychiatric illness, the Supreme Court has ruled.

The judges' 5-4 decision upheld a 1994 Kansas law which aims to protect communities from sex offenders thought likely to reoffend when released from prison. It overturned a Kansas Supreme Court ruling that the vague definition of "mental abnormality" in the state's new Sexually Violent Predator Act was open to abuse and represented a huge infringement of individual rights.

The verdict was welcomed by California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona and Washington which have passed similar laws in the wake of public demands for greater protection from known sex offenders. Many other states may follow: a total of 38 and Washington DC joined together to urge the judges to allow sex criminals to be detained for being "abnormal" rather than the tighter standard of "ill".



Blaskic: accused of attacks on Muslims

## General on trial for war crimes

The Hague: A Bosnian Croat general, accused of directing a brutal "ethnic cleansing" campaign, yesterday became the highest-ranking suspect to go on trial at the United Nations war crimes tribunal.

Tihomir Blaskic, 36, appeared before the court charged with crimes against humanity committed against Muslims in central Bosnia between 1992 and 1994 when he was a colonel commanding Bosnian Croat (HVO) militia forces. He denies the charges. The tribunal alleges that Blaskic, who gave his occupation as "a professional officer in the Croatian army", led ethnic cleansing drives in Bosnia's Lasva Valley region, where hundreds of civilians were killed during the destruction of villages. (Reuters)

about forcibly detaining the mentally ill. Fred Berlin, who is the founder of the Sexual Disorders Clinic at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said that people would no longer "be held to account only for acts they have actually committed, but now also for acts that someone else says they are going to commit".

The ruling was triggered by the case of Leroy Hendricks, a 62-year-old Kansas paedophile. He argued that he was a victim of "double jeopardy" — being punished twice for the same offence — when Kansas sent him to a state hospital for the criminally mentally ill as he was about to complete ten years of a prison sentence for molesting two 13-year-old boys

in the electronics shop where he worked.

Mr Hendricks had spent about half his life in prisons or mental hospitals since committing sex offences against children in the 1950s.

The majority of the Supreme Court, led by Justice Clarence Thomas, a conservative, ruled that confinement did not constitute punishment, even if no treatment for psychiatric problems is given or is possible. He compared the case to quarantine laws which allow people to be isolated by force if they present a threat to others.

The four Supreme Court judges who disagreed with Justice Thomas argued that detention without treatment amounted to punishment.

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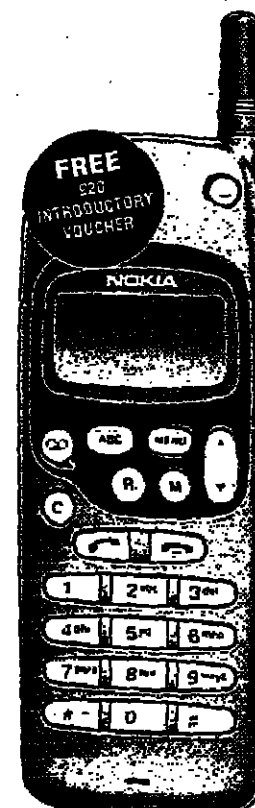
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# Pentagon shoots down a UFO legend



A report aimed at silencing rumours of a UFO crash in New Mexico has failed to sway believers, Giles Whittell writes

THEORIES about teenage aliens, hairless chimpanzees and imported Japanese test-pilots took a serious if not fatal knock yesterday when the Pentagon published a comprehensive report aimed at silencing once and for all rumours surrounding a now legendary crash in the New Mexico desert in July 1947.

The official verdict: it was a high altitude balloon that crashed near the tiny ranching town of Roswell, not a UFO, and any bodies found next to it were life-size dummies from top-secret simulated parachute drops.

In Roswell: Case Closed, the result of a four-year, multi-million-dollar internal investigation, the Pentagon says a balloon trailing disc-shaped radar reflectors, used as part of the US Army's Operation Mogul to detect Soviet nuclear tests in the upper atmosphere, fell near Roswell 50 years ago next month.

As the town gears up for three days of anniversary events and an influx of 40,000 UFO enthusiasts, military officials hope their new tome will put to rest one of the century's most enduring conspiracy theories: that aliens captured after the "Roswell incident" were taken to "Area 51", an unacknowledged test site in Nevada, and have been studied there ever since.

If the myth survives, the army will only have itself to blame. On July 5, 1947, Mac Brazel, a Roswell ranch-hand, stumbled on the flimsy metallic remains of an airborne object in a field 75 miles

northwest of the town. Unable to identify them, he turned them over to the sheriff who, in turn, gave them to the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF). Three days later an official army press release stated that the wreckage of a "flying disc" had been recovered, giving the Roswell Daily Record a front page now coveted and framed by "ufologists" around the world. "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region", the headline read.

A rapid correction of the

with a fat fuselage", and three bodies, on July 5.

Frank Kaufmann, now 81, was a civilian employee at the airfield when he was dispatched to see what had crashed. He says he got a close look at two dead aliens. "They were very good-looking people, ash-coloured faces and skin... about 5ft 5in tall, eyes a little more pronounced, small ears, small nose, fine features and hairless," he says, adding that he saw military personnel place five corpses into body bags.

Before his death in 1995, Jim Ragsdale, owner of the land on which the incident happened, vividly described for the first time having seen dead aliens and even trying to touch one. That year two black-and-white films, 18 minutes and three minutes and purporting to be of military surgeons operating on dead aliens, found their way into a British documentary on Roswell. The Pentagon dismissed both films as hoaxes. No bodies fell to earth with the Operation Mogul balloon, according to Roswell: Case Closed, which suggests the source of alien rumours may be photographs taken of wounded military balloon pilots.

But believers will never be dissuaded. "It's just another cover-up," the army press officer who issued the July 8, 1947, release told ABC News this week. "Any dummy knows what a dummy looks like, and those weren't dummies."

Leading article, page 21

Any dummy knows what a dummy looks like, and those weren't dummies

July 8 press release announcing that what had crashed was, in fact, a weather balloon satisfied the media and the wider world for decades. But it never quashed speculation in the die-hard UFO community. Sixty-five per cent of Americans now believe a UFO crashed near Roswell, according to a recent poll.

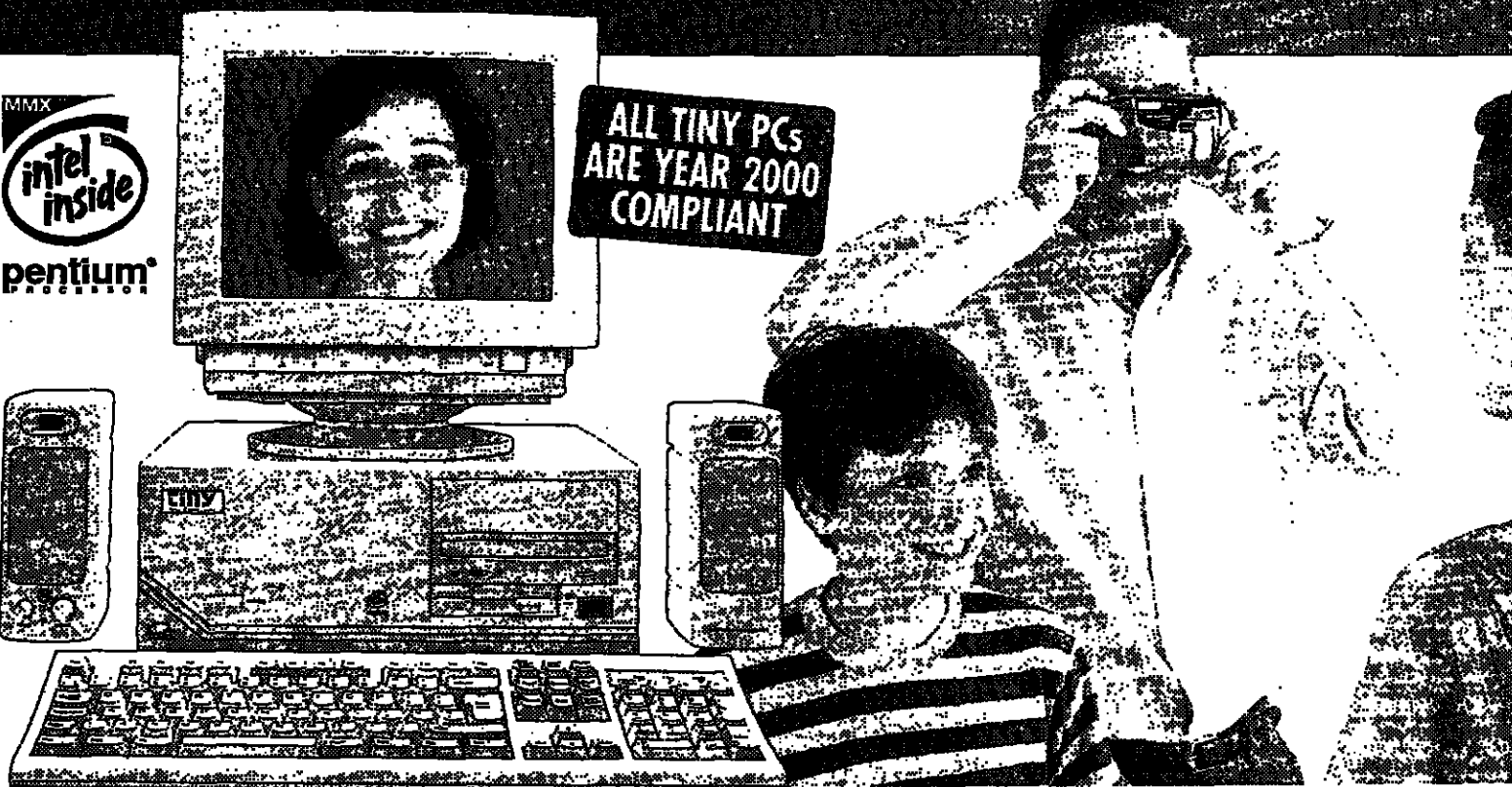
Locals claiming to have seen aliens there have come forward in droves years afterwards. W. Curry Holden, leader of an archaeological team, said he saw "a crashed airplane without wings and



A model of an "alien" draws children visiting America's International UFO Museum and Research Centre at Roswell in New Mexico. A recent poll shows that 65 per cent of Americans believe a UFO crashed at Roswell

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## Profit out of this world for aliens industry

By GILES WHITTELL

FOR just \$15 (£10), you too can visit the patch of scrubby land where Hub and Sheila Corn swear a flying saucer crashed half a century ago. If their daughter, Kristin, is your guide, she will tell you it was piloted by errant alien youngsters on a joyride.

In Roswell, where the median household income is barely two thirds of the national average, aliens are big business. As the golden jubilee of the town's defining incident approaches, gift shops and museums are stocking up with T-shirts, spaceship earrings, "alien glow-pop" lollipops and reproductions of the Roswell Daily Record's announcement of a UFO landing.

And videos. Perhaps the hottest sellers, these go for \$6.50 at the Midway Sighting, UFO Museum, whose owners insist that their film of what look like flying insects is in fact of alien spacecraft. For \$29.50, a local property devel-



Joe and Pat Travis of the Little A Le Inn reap profits from the "UFO crash" 1,000 miles away in Roswell

oper sells a video of Jim Ragsdale's final sworn account of a crash on Forest Service land west of town. His early claims put the crash site further north, but the Corns own that land now.

Mounting public fascination with UFOs pumps more than \$5 million a year from 90,000 tourists into Roswell's economy, according to a Forbes magazine investigation entitled *Unidentified Flying Dollars*.

Local people give the credit for the boom to Thomas Jennings, their new Mayor and a marketing graduate who came to the job in 1994 convinced that Roswell could be known for more than its mozzarella plant, America's biggest, and as the birthplace

of the actress Demi Moore. Since then hotel tax revenues have increased by 36 per cent. "We weren't lucky enough to have a mountain or a beach," Mr Jennings said, "so we have to go with what we've got, which is a UFO crash."

The Roswell incident has also had a big financial ripple effect 1,000 miles away at Rachel in central Nevada, where the Little A Le Inn does a brisk trade accommodating UFO fanatics who believe the visitors who crashed in Roswell are kept at a top secret Air Force base nearby.

Meanwhile 20th Century Fox is still counting the takings from last year's *Independence Day*, about an alien invasion. They are currently more than \$900 million.

## Libraries in US net £119m gift

New York: Bill Gates, the software magnate, has promised to install the Internet in all of America's public libraries, at a cost of \$200 million (£119 million) over five years (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Yesterday's announcement was welcomed by the American Library Association. Elizabeth Martinez, the association's executive director, said: "This is Mr Gates becoming the 21st-century's Andrew Carnegie." Carnegie, a man of no formal education who died in 1919, is regarded as the book world's greatest philanthropist, endowing more than 2,500 libraries in America and Britain.

Mr Gates's decision to create a library foundation should galvanise America's creaking public libraries, hauling them belatedly into the turn-of-the-century information age.

The computer king may have opened himself up to criticism that his generosity is self-serving: any proliferation of his technology would ultimately add to profits, to say nothing of publicity. But few can deny libraries will reap a rich reward. Strapped for cash, a majority remain mired in outdated ways.

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# Singapore lambasts Western policy on handover of Hong Kong



Lee says Patten agenda was too much, too late

FROM DAVID WATTS  
IN HONG KONG

LEE KUAN YEW, Singapore's senior minister, yesterday had caustic words for Britain and America over Hong Kong, with less than a week to go to its reversion to China.

Casting the change of tack in trying to introduce a more broadly based democracy through the reforms of Governor Chris Patten in 1992, he accused Britain of "not living up to its highest traditions" and said the British "at the tail-end of Empire thought of themselves and not the people of Hong Kong". But the American Government and media fared little better in a classic

performance before a conference, hosted by the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, in which he proved that his opinions are still highly valued throughout the region even if his memory, at 72, is sometimes selective. Both elements of American society, he said, were using Hong Kong and Singapore as sticks with which to beat China.

Criticism of the lack of democracy in Hong Kong, or the lack of freedom in Singapore, were not an illustration of concern about the peoples of the two city-states but a way of attacking China, he said.

His contention was that Britain should have adhered to all the innovations that had been written

into the original joint declaration on Hong Kong. Failure to do so had resulted in a suspicious China that was on guard against attempts "to smuggle a Trojan horse into Shenzhen or Guangzhou."

"When I read an advance copy of it in 1984 I was overwhelmed at the skill with which it was drafted. It was a diplomatic tour de force. Every concept in realising a free society and a free economy had been introduced into that document by Sir Percy Cradock [former British Ambassador to China]. I was a trained lawyer and I knew Cradock. I don't know if the Chinese had any British-trained lawyers reviewing it who knew what it meant." Had it

gone forward it would have led to a "fully self-governing unit which would have had a totally elected legislature, in other words, not very different from other ex-British colonies," he said, answering questions after his speech.

The Patten agenda, he said, was too much, too late. "Patten's political agenda has provided a stick for foreign lobby groups with which to beat China. Beijing is aware that the world is watching and I believe it will go out of its way to show that Hong Kong can thrive and prosper economically after its return to China. But it will not tolerate politicising in Hong Kong that will disturb China's political system."

A Cambridge-educated potentate, Mr Lee does not care for rebuttals — especially from the British — but an eloquent one was provided by Hugh Davies, senior British representative to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, who denied that there had been any change of policy in 1992. What had changed had been the attitude towards China in Hong Kong after the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989. "There was a different perception of Hong Kong in China and Hong Kong had a different perception of China," Hong Kong, he said, was in better shape than it had ever been. "I hope we have come out of it pretty well."

Mr Lee, who first visited Hong Kong in 1954, was impressed when he had a suit run up in 12 hours. Yesterday he met the new Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, to advise him on the difficult task of building confidence among his Chinese mentors that will allow him flexibility later.

Jonathan Mirsky, page 20

## Kremlin vows to overrule deputies on budget cuts

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A CLASH between President Yeltsin's administration and the communist-dominated Duma approached crisis yesterday when Anatoli Chubais, the First Deputy Prime Minister, warned the legislature that the Government was prepared to push through its policies without parliamentary approval.

Mr Chubais's outburst came after the Duma rejected a series of drastic government-proposed cuts in spending to compensate for a shortfall in revenues. The proposal to reduce spending by \$18.6 billion (£11 billion) from an original target of \$34 billion was thrown out by parliament.

The rejection came despite intensive efforts by the Government over the past few weeks to reach a deal before the Duma begins its summer recess today. Mr Chubais, who was appointed in March to oversee the economy, said a month ago that the 1997 budget had been grossly optimistic and that there were insufficient funds to meet projected spending. "If the Duma does not take on responsibilities, it makes one doubt whether it is capable of working," Mr Chubais said.

The legislature's recalcitrance has led to widespread speculation that Mr Yeltsin

may force a vote of confidence. If the Duma votes no-confidence motions twice, he can dissolve it and call new elections. Despite the posturing, neither side wants this to happen. Most deputies value their perks, pay and privileges far too highly to risk being turfed out by the voter.

The Government is aware that in the present political and economic climate — with rising unemployment and continuing delays in the payment of state wages and pensions — any new parliament would be likely to be even more opposed to the Government than the present one.

Mr Chubais, who as the architect and instigator of Russia's privatisation programme of 1992-96 is regarded with particular hatred by the Communist party — stopped short of calling for the Duma's dissolution, although he has hinted in the past that Mr Yeltsin was considering such a move. He said the decision was for Mr Yeltsin alone to take.

The Government is committed to a programme of strict budgetary controls under the terms of its three-year, \$10 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund. The IMF assessed Russia's economic performance each month during the first year of

the loan and on several occasions this year and last year delayed payment because of concerns over tax revenue.

Last week, the Government won a big victory when the Duma approved a new tax code, drawn up with the approval of the IMF. The code was passed despite a recommendation from the Duma's own budget committee to reject it. The move came only two days after the lower house turned down a government plan to cut a whole range of welfare benefits to help to make up the deficit.

In a separate move yesterday seen as a personal snub to Mr Chubais, the Duma passed a Bill aimed at widening its control over privatisation, under which the Government would have to submit privatisation targets for parliamentary approval. The Bill still requires approval from the upper house, the Federation Council, to become law.

Dismissal plea: The Government asked President Yeltsin to dismiss his Justice Minister after photographs and a video tape showing him frolicking in a sauna with naked women were made public. The minister, Valentin Kovalyov, has requested that he be suspended to clear his name.



Jennifer Murray shows her jubilation on arriving in Hong Kong yesterday to be welcomed, right, by the Pattens and her husband, Simon

## Flying visit for the Pattens

BY CATHERINE FIELD  
IN HONG KONG

THE first woman to attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a helicopter arrived here yesterday amid scenes of jubilation, completing the first half of a 24,000-mile journey.

Among those who welcomed Jennifer Murray, 56, a British grandmother, when she touched down at Kai Tak

airport in her red helicopter were Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, and his wife, Lavender, who are close friends. Also on hand was her husband, Simon Murray, an influential Hong Kong businessman.

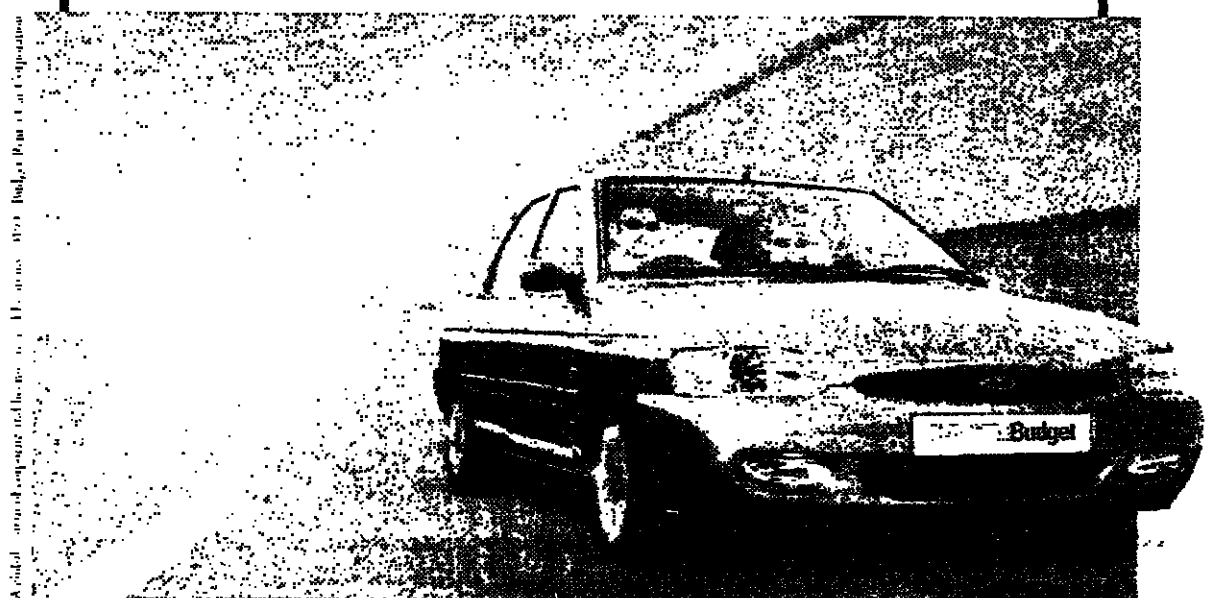
"I can't quite believe this. We are in fact halfway round now. Luck is with us. We've been very lucky and I hope we continue to be," Mrs Murray

said. "The only bad weather we had was when we crossed the English Channel."

Mrs Murray is making the journey to raise funds for Save the Children. She and co-pilot Quentin Smith began their journey in Britain on May 1. En route they touched down at 19 destinations, including France, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan.



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### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Give up Pol Pot soon, rebels told

Phnom Penh: Prince Norodom Ranariddh yesterday warned a breakaway faction of the Khmer Rouge believed to be holding Pol Pot that an amnesty deal could be jeopardised if it did not soon hand over its infamous leader to the Cambodian Government (James Pringle writes).

"If we cannot resolve the problem in a very short period of time, in days rather than weeks or months," the First Co-Prime Minister said, "we cannot talk about trust and confidence or of an amnesty for other Khmer Rouge leaders." It was in the interests of Khmer Rouge, he added, to hand over Pol Pot "as soon as possible" so that he could face a genocide tribunal.

## Nazi defends massacre role

Rome: Erich Priebke, the former Nazi officer, took the stand to defend himself at his trial for the 1944 massacre of 335 Italian civilians at the Ardeatine caves near here. The former SS captain, 83, told the silent tribunal room that he was forced to take part in the massacre and that the order had come "directly from Hitler in Berlin". He said that anyone who had refused such an order would have faced an SS tribunal. "My death and the persecution of my family would not have saved those ordered to be executed," he said. (AFP)

## Nigeria plans petrol imports

Lagos: Nigeria, one of the world's main oil producers, will resort to emergency imports of petrol to deal with a fuel shortage caused by crippled refineries. General Sani Abacha, the military ruler, announced the move as public anger towards his Government for the month-old fuel crisis increased. The shortage, the worst since the 1967 Biafra war, was blamed for three weekend deaths, including that of a young girl killed when a keg of petrol being hoarded in her home was ignited. (AP)

## Nike gets its feet burnt

New York: Nike, the American sports gear manufacturer, is recalling a line of training shoes because the logo, right, resembling the word "Allah" in Arabic, has offended Muslims (James Bone writes). The mark was supposed to look like flames, but the Council on American-Islamic Relations complained, calling for a boycott of Nike products. In 1995 the firm removed a California billboard showing a basketball player with the legend: "They call him Allah."

## Algerian villagers murdered

Algiers: An armed group slashed the throats of 18 villagers during a night raid in the latest attack blamed on the five-year insurgency by Islamic extremists, local officials said. A six-month-old baby, four youths and eight women were among those killed last Wednesday in the village, eight miles south of the capital. The victims were members of the same family. More than 60,000 people have died in political violence since 1992. (AFP)

## Circumcision ban reversed

Cairo: A court overturned a year-old government ban on female circumcision in Egypt in a ruling hailed by Islamic fundamentalists but condemned by human rights activists. Judge Abdelaziz Hamada said the Cairo administrative court ruled that the operation, in which all or part of the clitoris and sometimes the labia is removed, can be carried out. (AFP)

## Peace deadlock 'could provoke war with Egypt'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI military intelligence chiefs have warned the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu that the continuing standstill in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians could soon provoke an explosion of violence in the occupied territories that might drag Egypt into a new war.

Details of the official warning were leaked yesterday to Shimon Shalev, the diplomatic correspondent of Tel Aviv's biggest newspaper, *Yedioth Aharonot*, and were later confirmed by other Israeli sources.

According to the paper, the latest military estimates said that the continuation of the three-month deadlock in contacts is liable soon to lead the Palestinians towards "violent activity whose end cannot be foreseen".

The experts went on to forecast that such a violent scenario "could bring about the total collapse of [Yasser Arafat's] Palestinian Authority". *Yedioth* said that the intelligence officers added: "In such a situation, it would appear that Egypt [which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979] would not sit on the sidelines and would announce that it would not show restraint in response to an Israeli intention to send troops into Palestinian Authority territories."

Publication of the assessment, which the newspaper reported had caused concern to Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister and a relative moderate in the Cabinet, came after Western intelligence reports at the weekend that Israeli tanks had been placed on alert near Hebron after a week of renewed rioting in the disputed West Bank city. The clashes left more than 100 Palestinians wounded.

For the first time since the present security crisis was sparked, on March 18, by the Israeli decision to send bulldozers to begin work at the Jewish settlement of Efrata in annexed east Jerusalem.

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# Hot air disaster looms at UN building

**FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK**

**IF DELEGATES** to this week's Earth Summit II in New York want to experience a true environmental disaster, they need go no farther than the United Nations building.

Stacks of leaflets on environmental issues litter the corridors; half-empty soft drink cans sit abandoned in conference rooms; smokers pollute the espresso bars; and the building is wildly over-populated.

The 4,000 diplomats, journalists, lobbyists and green activists at the first

# RED TAPE

five-year review of the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit are producing an estimated ten tonnes of rubbish a day, not to mention copious amounts of hot air.

It is not for nothing that the summit is known officially as the UN General Assembly Special Session — Ungass for short.

All sorts of debris is thrown into the blue recycling bins marked "Newspapers Only" and meals in the canteen are served in environmentally unfriendly plastic containers.

Another bone of contention is the fact that the UN does not use recycled paper for conference documents. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, has promised to try to cut the organisation's paper consumption by a quarter, but only by the end of next year. In the meantime, the windowless UN press office has been told it must move because the poor air quality in the building puts it in violation of health standards.

Again, despite a New York bylaw that prohibits cars idling for more than a minute, motorcades park in lines outside the UN building with their engines running.

# Green cities drive out plague of cars

**WHILE** Tony Blair prepares to roll back the relentless onslaught of the car in Britain, motorised transport has already had to come to terms with a backlash across much of Western Europe.

From Florence to Freiburg to Copenhagen, the car is being expelled from the inner city, hounded into the wilderness of suburban car parks by environmentally conscious governments. The war against the exhaust fume is beginning to resemble the medieval fight against bubonic plague.

The inhabitants of car-free cities were initially quite satisfied with the move. Asthma rates have fallen, children can walk to school and there has been passionate talk about the quality of life. Freiburg, on the fringes of the Black Forest, has been pursuing a relentlessly green policy since 1985 when it slashed season tickets by 30 per cent. Within a year 23 per cent of car users had switched to public transport, brandishing a single ticket that covers 90 train, bus and tram routes. By 1991 the traffic pass had been extended to include some 1,625 miles of track. Roads have been ripped up and 250 miles of bicycle paths laid.

The result of the cleaner air has been a rush of inward investment. A new environmentally sensitive suburb is under construction to house the 10,000 extra people who have joined the 200,000 population. There was some early resistance from traders, but it was soon discovered that pedestrian shopping areas attracted cash more readily than



Europeans are forcing cars out of city centres and into suburbs but creating new problems, **Roger Boyes** reports

streets where parking meters have to be fed by the hour.

In Florence, too, traders resented the total ban on cars but compelling argument – that historic buildings were crumbling and tourists were being knocked down before they had a chance to cash their travellers' cheques – led to a general acceptance. Now mopeds and scooters buzz like wasps around the city, and even they are banned from the historical centre. St Gallen in Switzerland is famous for its extraordinarily expensive parking tickets and the speed

with which they are distributed. As a result cars are usually abandoned at the city gates.

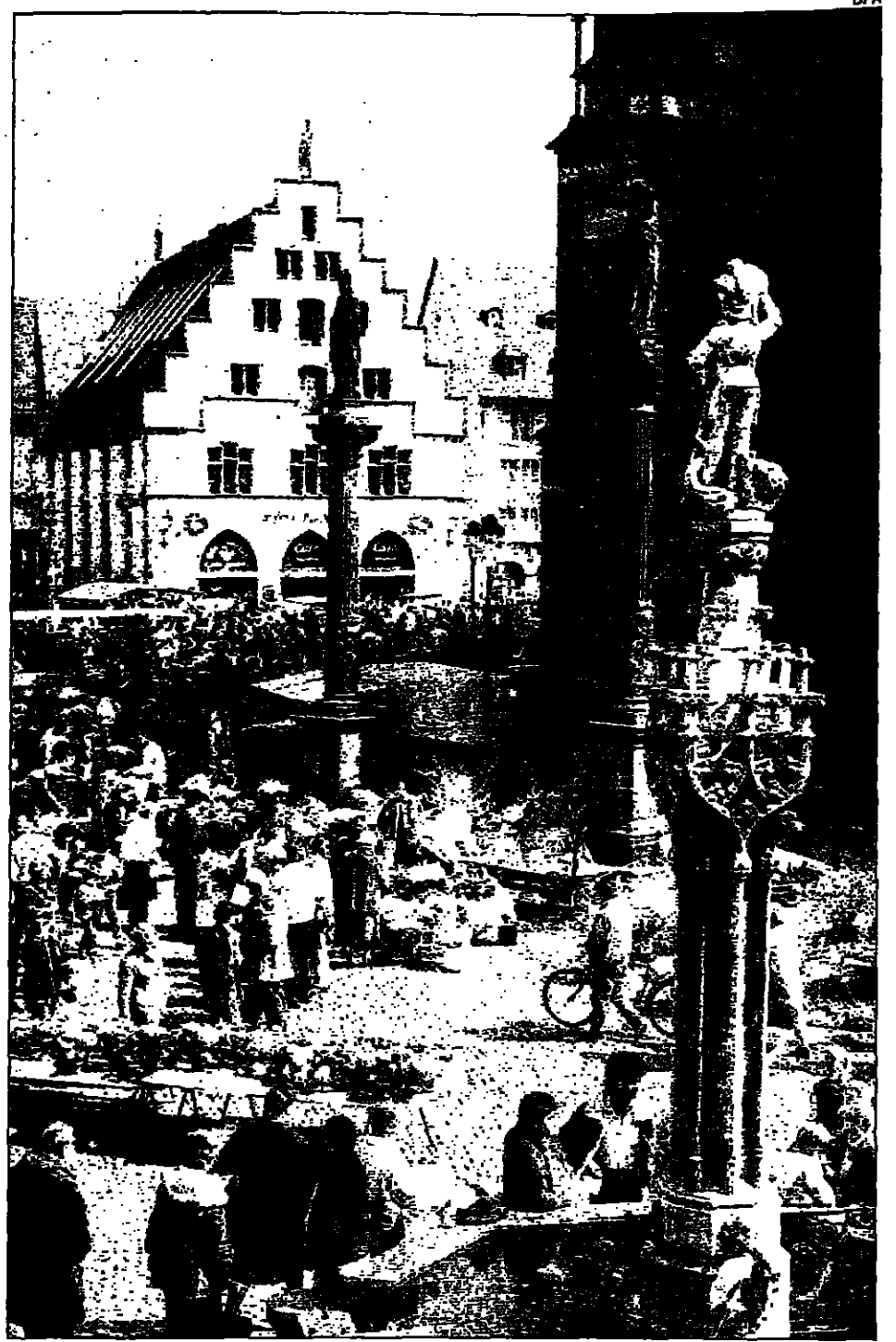
Yet, increasingly, politicians and planners are finding that the low ozone oases are either displacing the essential problems or creating new ones. Walter Molt, traffic researcher at the University of Augsburg, has an apocalyptic vision. "At the latest in the year 2000 we will be witnessing Germany's first eco-wars between car-driving commuters and the furious inhabitants on the fringes of cities," he says. The winners will take the law into their own hands, close down their streets and force hesitant politicians to use their brains." Dr Molt and his colleagues warn that politicians — and not only the Greens — have created a dogma of car-free centres without thinking through the social consequences.

A longer, but equally depressing view is taken by Andreas Feldtkeller, an urban planner who has been trying to redesign the traffic system of Tübingen. He claims that banishing traffic from centres has become part of a trend — pushing all industry outwards, creating separate shopping and banking centres, confining children to playgrounds — that is atomising

the city, destroying its very essence. "The result is people do not mix and that cities are seen as something dangerous, to be avoided, rather than as places where people can communicate and exchange ideas." A balance has to be struck, he argues. "There are towns not only in Italy, but also in the North - Amsterdam or Paris, for example - where there is a real street life." The enemy of the city, he claims, is its pedestrianisation.

There are other seemingly slighiter but nonetheless pressing problems in car-free zones. Try, for example, to find a taxi in Copenhagen. Denmark has had energy taxes since 1977. They were used initially to plug the budget but now, more and more, they are a deliberate instrument for steering energy consumption. Denmark ranks as a model, one of the few countries to cut its carbon-dioxide emissions since Rio. Its efforts have not paralysed the economy — growth is good, employment levels high — but it has created cumbersome cities.

There are alternatives to car-free ghettos. One being investigated by scientists in Cologne is car sharing for city commuters. Pooling private cars could fill the middle area between taxi use for short stretches and rented cars for longer journeys. Cologne University scientists suggest that if the full potential of shared car commuting was exploited the number of cars in use in Germany could drop by around 1.2 million.



## Pedestrians reclaim the centre of Freiburg, but a backlash is around the corner

# Treasured nature sites feel the heat from global warming

**By Nick Nuttall**  
**Environment Correspondent**  
**in New York**

**THE world's most important nature reserves, home to some of the best loved animals, including the giant panda, polar bear and the Indian tiger, are beginning to suffer from global warming, researchers reported yesterday.**

Glaciers in Glacier National Park in Montana are reducing in size as higher temperatures trigger melting. In the Swiss national park in the Alps, milder winters have led to rare plants disappearing from lower slopes and becoming concentrated

## WILDLIFE

ed at higher, cooler altitudes over recent decades, studies show.

Jonathan Loh, an ecologist with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said that the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana, home to the elephant, wildebeest and 65 fish species, is drying out, with moisture levels at their lowest for 100 years.

The ancient forests of Russia, Scandinavia and Canada are also undergoing more attacks by pests such as beetles and an increased frequency of fires. "It is forecast that two thirds of these will disappear if

global warming continues," Mr Loh said. The La Amistad national park and Talamanca reserves in the mountain areas of Costa Rica have seen a decline in amphibians such as frogs and toads over the past ten years, with 20 of 50 species extinct in the area, including the Harlequin frog and the Golden toad.

The WWF report, presented to delegates at the Earth Summit II in New York, indicates that subtle effects are happening across continents, with more damaging effects predicted because of rising temperatures caused by man-made pollution. It concludes that many mountain, forest, Antarctic and

wetland areas designated as national parks or protected areas will soon be unable to support their special wildlife unless action is taken to curb global warming.

The damage, already detectable, will come from rapid changes in rising sea levels, declines in rainfall in some areas and increased devastation from hurricanes and searing heat in other parts of the globe. The study has looked at 35 parks and special areas, including some in Britain. A temperature rise of 1C (34F) will have an impact on the diversity of species in about half of Britain's protected areas.

caused by global warming in Ben Lawers national nature reserve in the Scottish Highlands. It claims that many species face extinction there, including snow hares, ptarmigan and Alpine flowers such as starry saxifage, unless global warming is halted. Damage to the North York Moors National Park will include increasing erosion of the cliffs as sea levels rise, allied to more frequent bracken fires such as those that raged in the peat in 1976.

The Wolong nature reserve in China's Sichuan province, home to some of the last giant pandas, also looks vulnerable to big changes, including loss of the panda's favour-

ite food, bamboo. Kanha and Pench national parks in India, home to some of the last Bengal tigers, is expected to see a sharp decline in rainfall and a loss of broad-leaf forests vital for the tigers. The area in which the reserve is located is set to experience a temperature rise of up to 2.5C and a drop of a fifth in rainfall as the strength of the monsoon declines.

Bruce Babbitt, American Secretary of the Interior, responded to the report by describing national parks as "important treasures". He said that the report underlined the folly of delaying action over global warming.

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# A cool touch of velvet for summer

Fine velvet dresses are perfect for sultry evenings. Style Editor Grace Bradberry chooses four of the best



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**RIGHT:** Devoré spaghetti-strap dress, £360, made to order from Brach and Brach. Tel: 01273 205 470

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Velvet column dress, £320, by Selina Blow, 42 Elizabeth Street, London. Tel: 0171-730-2449. Cream rose bucket bag, £245, by Lulu Guinness at Selina Blow

**BELOW RIGHT:** Velvet devoré leaf dress, £1,275, by Prada at Harrods. Beige leather floral flip-flops, £70, by Jones The Bootmaker, 15 Fouberts Place, London. Tel: 0800 163 519

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Stylist: Deborah Brett  
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## Fashion trend that's a shade surprising

Women who wear sunglasses indoors are notorious among the staff of casualty departments. Junior doctors will tell you that such women are almost always mad — particularly if they present themselves at admissions desks in the winter months.

This handy rule of thumb is not, however, as reliable as it once was. The Nineties have seen an upsurge in the wearing of sunglasses indoors — among men as well as women — and this summer the trend has taken an even crankier turn. People are wearing their shades on their faces when they are indoors, and perched on their heads when they are outdoors. The idea of wearing sunglasses to protect one's eyes has been forgotten. This is all good news for



In the dark: Laura Bailey

the designers of sunglasses. Apparently immune to the vagaries of the English summer, the market for "premium" frames is now estimated at £104.5 million annually. Sunglasses are now an "essential" accessory, but are increasingly worn for non-

Sunglasses are now a fashion accessory which can be worn in the dark, says Grace Bradberry

essential reasons. In an age when attitude is all, they prevent us from giving ourselves away by appearing nervous, heady-eyed, or worst of all, interested in other people. They are also the most reliable way to avoid eye contact, a fact which may explain why so many of us now emulate celebrities by hiding inscrutably behind our shades when no one is likely to recognise us anyway.

A big pair of Jackie O frames can, with their suggestion of fragility and impending distress, heighten that slightly theatrical vulnerability that some women, including Diana, Princess of Wales, do so well. Celebrities

at least have an excuse of sorts for hiding behind their shades. In public they require sunglasses to protect them from the lenses of the paparazzi, but in private, wandering about the street with friends, there is no need.

The young and attractive are the main culprits — unafraid of the crows' feet that come with squinting into the sun, and not yet equipped with a sufficient sense of the ridiculous to keep their shades in their handbags when they find themselves beneath artificial lights. The British model Laura Bailey, who once dated Richard Gere, fits the type exactly. She is to be seen gliding insouciantly through air-

ports all over the world, her face hidden behind big "bug-eye" frames. Outside, however, her shades are more often to be seen nesting in her piles of lush, blonde hair.

If you are determined to imitate this look, you will need to carry two pairs of sunglasses — one pair of wraparounds, which look great on the head, but less good on the face, and one pair of "nerd" glasses, the NHS-style frames which are currently fashionable, but which won't stay wedged in the hair. Recognising the trend, some manufacturers have brought out lenses in a variety of tints, including orange and yellow. The idea

is that these will look less affected when worn at night. Liam and Noel Gallagher both wear Cutler & Gross frames with coloured lenses. Diehard indoor shades wearers don't bother with this kind of refinement, however. Anna Wintour, Editor of *American Vogue*, wears hers to watch the shows, while Naomi Campbell and Patsy Kensit have also stuck with the inscrutability of black.

And if dark glasses are, in certain circumstances, faintly ridiculous, there are always compensations. Even the most affable personalities can appear forbidding while wearing them — which may explain to the perplexed staff of GQ why their new editor James Brown, formerly of *Loaded*, wears his around the office.

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Party time: Tony Blair kisses New Yorker Editor Tina Brown as Harold Evans and Cherie Blair look on. In the next few hours, New York was conquered with Napoleonic thoroughness by the Prime Minister.

# Tony takes Manhattan

New York's finest turned out to pay court to Tony Blair, reports Tunku Varadarajan

For the party guests gathering in New York's newest English country garden the atmosphere was at first one of genteel suspense. The flight from the Summit of Eight at Denver had been delayed by a thunderstorm and no one was quite sure when the guests of honour would arrive.

Waiting in their "triple" Sutton Place apartment were New Yorker editor, Tina Brown and her husband, Random House president Harold Evans, both New Labour brigadiers for New York. The party was officially to be a chance for Mr and Mrs Blair to thank New York supporters who had organised expatriate voting drives and raised funds for the election. But it was also a chance for New York's finest — from Lauren Bacall to Henry Kissinger, Barbara Walters to Martin Scorsese — to cast their discerning eyes over the man and woman who the Brits had sent to Downing Street.

"It was an exciting feeling," the hostess says, "what with the constant updates from the secret service men there." The local Labourites, who claim to be the most prosperous group of their kind in the Millbank

world, were certainly excited too. The other guests were not yet sure whether it would be exciting.

British political leaders have no guaranteed entry point into New York. They can all too simply sink in the social mud here before anyone even notices their presence. Mr and Mrs Blair arrived at ten, an hour late. He devoted the first 20 minutes to his local party activists. "Thank you for your sterling efforts," he told a band of shiny-eyed admirers. The perfect politician, Mr Blair even proposed that the host be made an honorary secretary of the local Labour Party. Mr Evans accepted.

Then it was the turn of the manicured minds of Manhattan to meet the light-suited Prime Minister. The garden had been dressed in English country style for the occasion. There were peonies and lupins, a green gauze marquee, Pimm's, champagne, poached salmon — plus John Prescott and Clare Short to complete the picture of New Britain.

In the next few hours New York was then conquered with

Napoleonic thoroughness. Mr Blair's presidential style may irritate some of his party back home. But, according to New Yorkers, his real party was on Sunday night and here — and, as victories go, Manhattan should rank as one of Mr Blair's finest.

He had Ms Bacall, still one of the greatest beauties in America, tugging at the sleeve of his tan jacket, her fingers as long and slim as the Turkish oval cigarettes of old. Anjelica Huston, towering muskily over him, took in every syllable of his party piece on the Denver Summit of Eight. How pleasant this change of company must have been for him after two days of President Clinton, President Chirac, President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Hashimoto of Japan.

As well as Mr Scorsese and Dr Kissinger, there was Peggy Noonan, the best speech-writer Ronald Reagan ever had, and Jesse Jackson, the target of all Republican speech writers keep in the back of their minds. There was

Richard Avedon, the photographic maestro, Abe Rosenthal from *The New York Times*, Nicholas Hytner, Christopher Hitchens and the novelist Gita Mehta, winsome in her sari of wine-red. There were city intellectuals Simon Schama and Henry Louis Gates Jr, one of its press barons Mort Zuckerman and



Ready to party: Henry Kissinger and Anjelica Huston

its favourite daughters Ms Walters and Diane Sawyer.

"The place was full of people who get invited to everything in town," Peggy Noonan says. "And everywhere. Yet on Sunday, they wanted to do only one thing ... meet Tony Blair." Ms Noonan purrs her praise for the Prime Minister as I talk to her: "He has

impressively quiet star power. I may be a political conservative myself, but I like him. I approve of what he's done to the Bank of England, and the way he's handling the IRA. He's a clear-speaking, clear-thinking man, just the sort I love to observe in action."

According to Ms Sawyer: "He has an American flavour, of course, but he's gone one better. Your Prime Minister is a true believer in possibilities. His idealism is exciting. And besides, I was impressed by his stamina. He stayed and talked to everyone. We all know about the politician's glaze. Maybe he's new at his job, but he doesn't have one."

Howard Stringer, president of Sony, spoke of the "stimulating vibes" that Mr Blair exuded. "He is articulate, he communicates bonhomie. It seems as if he is floating on a cushion of success."

Dubbed a "limousine liberal" by unkind elements in the press, Mr Stringer was "a Labour man even before it became fashionable." "Still," he says, "it's nice now to be fashionable as well."

Another Labour man, Ian

Williams, ascribed Mr Blair's American triumph to youth. "Americans react very positively to youth, although you'd never guess it by looking at their Senate." He is a freelance journalist and the Labour party's organiser in New York. "Tony is inspirational. Don't compare him with Clinton, though. Blair has a better legislative record after five weeks in office than Clinton's had in five years."

If Mr Williams is watching the Prime Minister closely, then so is Henry Kissinger. So far, he has given Mr Blair an avuncular alpha. "He is very adept at what he does," the former American Secretary of State says in a guttural gurgle. The two spent some time huddled together at the party discussing China, a subject on which Dr Kissinger has

grown increasingly dove-like. He would not reveal what he had told the Prime Minister, but did say that he felt very comfortable with Mr Blair's ideas.

Dr Kissinger also described Mrs Blair as very amusing and intelligent. "I was talking to her for a few minutes and thinking, 'she must be good at whatever she does', when Diane Sawyer joined us and told me that I was talking to Mr Blair's wife. I hadn't seen too many pictures of her, you see."

"She has a simple grace," Walter Isaacson, Managing Editor of *Time* magazine, says. "I wish to stress that she has a simple grace. He has it, too. They think elegantly, they act elegantly, they talk elegantly. What a difference to Anglo-American relations these two will make."

It is at times like this that one really misses Harry Greenwood, MP for Ealing North until the Massacre of the Guillotines of May 1, and reliable supplier of huffing and puffing quotes. He absolutely could have been relied upon to provide just the right note of spittle-spewing indignation about the granting of a Commons pass to the gay long-term lover of Ben Bradshaw, the newly elected Labour MP for Exeter.

Instead, we have to make do with the spluttered outrage of Bradshaw's erstwhile opponent, Dr Adrian Rogers, who constructed an entire campaign around Bradshaw's homosexuality and was rewarded with an 11.7 per cent swing against him for his troubles.

Despite a newly sprung storyline in *EastEnders*, there just isn't the mileage in homophobia any more. Dr Rogers's claim that the successful application for a "spouse's pass" for Bradshaw's lover, Neal Dagleish, is part of an obnoxious plan to seek not merely recognition and equality — as if that weren't bad enough — "but, no doubt, eventual domination by the homosexual lobby" sounds to most of us these days as preposterous as it truly is.

Politics — sexual or otherwise — apart, I have considerably more sympathy for Bradshaw's request for the granting of spouse rights for his partner than I do for most non-married heterosexuals who demand the same consid-

## Why it makes sense to allow gays and lesbians to marry

It is unfair that some people's sexuality prevents them from having a conventional life



Nigella Lawson

eration for their lovers. Those who are straight have a choice whether to get married. And I concede, there are many good reasons for not getting married. Why should any of us have to seek the sanction of the state for our private relationships? The truth is we don't.

But it is plainly ridiculous to resist marriage because it is a hideous bourgeois institution and then moan because we are due none of the advantages of said hideous bourgeois institution.

Perhaps it is unfair that being married confers certain rights or benefits, but in all practically important matters in life now it doesn't. It is a choice, like any other, and on the whole people should learn that if you make a choice you accept the consequences that go with that choice.

I have never understood the concept of the common-law wife or husband. What sense does it make to be legally not married but as good as married? If you want to get married, get married: if you don't, don't, but why go whining to the courts to apply for the title of unmarried spouse?

If, however, you are gay or lesbian you have no such choice. Marriage is out of the question. There is no legal

framework that can encompass your relationship and no formal understanding given that such even exists. Many would insist that is just how it should be — and the many I refer to here are not those ideologically opposed to

homosexuality but those who militantly espouse its cause. Why play follow the breeders? But we don't all want to live our lives at the barricades. And for those who don't see why their sexuality should disbar them from a conventional life, the unfairness must seem incomprehensible.

And, actually, it makes more logical sense to introduce gay marriage than it does to extend spousal rights to all non-married partners. Perhaps the real answer, though, would be to de-recognise marriage.

All that would be necessary would be to issue obligatory contracts of responsibility for children, and everything would be taken care of. Because, just think a minute: if divorce is legal, the least binding of all contracts, then the marriage certificate is truly not worth the paper it is written on.

IN THE film *Liar, Liar*, in which the Jim Carrey figure is condemned by some Capra-

like piece of wishful wizardry to telling the truth, he is told reprovingly by his son that his hideous and caricatured overweight — teacher says that it is "inner beauty that counts". "Nah," he replies: "it's only ugly people who say that."

Ann Widdecombe is on the side of this fictional teacher. So incensed is she with society's obsession with beauty that, she reveals, she has started writing a novel to explore "this dangerous trend".

How infinitely depressing that the novel should be reduced to this. Doesn't she realise that literature is about writing, not ideas — at least not ideas in the sense of being the preconceived notions of people with Something to Say.

I am not convinced by the finer points of her argument, either. She claims that we respect beauty too much. I suggest that we respect it too little, expecting it to be a commonplace when necessarily it is a rarity.

In her youth it was different, she says. Now all these horrible magazines poison us with their images of female perfection.

Yes and no. The modern age, image-sodden as it is, has a lot to answer for. But it was

Hollywood whodunnit: that's where it emanated. When the beautiful faces we saw belonged to the prettiest girls in the village or whatever, we saw them in context. And they were both real and rare.

With the advent of film there was lighting to enhance, distance to bring glamour. And all that has happened is that modern techniques, and the mass communication which floods us with ever more information and images, intensifies that effect.

Everyone likes to look at a beautiful face: we are built that way. But I agree that it has reached sick proportions when people spend half their lives at the plastic surgeon's to make up for nature's shortfall.

Because the truth is, all the plastic surgeon can do is to make someone look plastic. Cindy Jackson is the living, breathing proof of that.

Beauty cannot be bought: the hardest thing for the capitalist, consumerist age to have to accept.

THERE has been much of the expected response to the sale of a small but exquisite Damien Hirst painting — a Latin blob of yellow household paint with the title *6-Bromo-4-Cyclohexene-1,2,3-Triol* — to Miuuccia Prada for £6,000 on Monday.

I cannot really make out quite why they are making such a fuss. Everything is relative, after all. I mean: has anyone seen the price of a Prada frock recently?

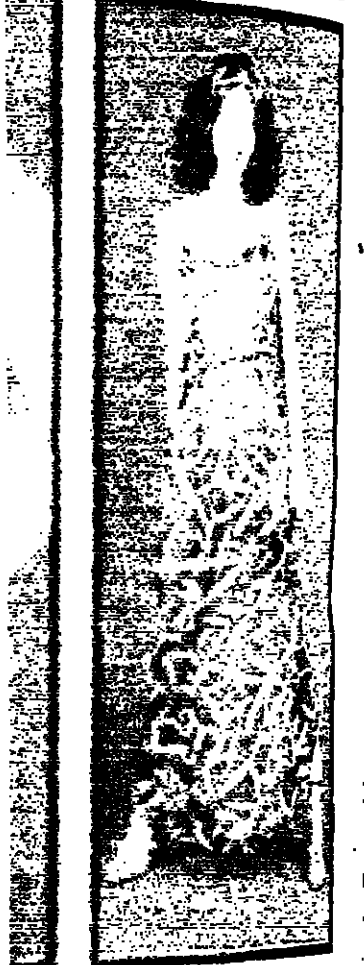
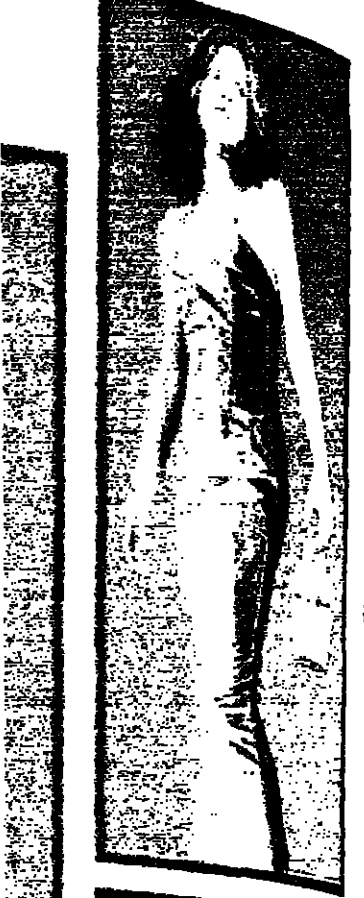
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Ouch  
vet  
imer



prising

LION  
GHT.



## Alan Coren



■ Act One, Scene One:  
Enter the little Princes,  
bearing tickets to the Odeon

My heart aches and a drowsy numbness pains my sense, also the little vein in my temple is throbbing in bas-relief like a febrile lug-worm, for it is three in the insomnia morning and in my headphoned ear a man from Crayford who has rung in to say that seeing X-films when he was 12 thanks to a broken voice and early moustache never did him any harm is being taken on by a hysterical harpist from Potters Bar who believes that Prince Harry has banged the final nail into the monarchical coffin and that the entire family now has no other option than to put its affairs in order and join the Romanovs in the basement.

Is it any wonder that I lie sweating here with my distant supper turning to a lead lump in the gut? For had I not foolishly imagined that the fraught shenanigans of the adult Royal Family having seemingly been laid at last to blessed rest by lawyers, accountants and, above all, editorial eulogisation, I myself might now enjoy a little peace from a decade of sensational headlines, lightning straw polls, crackpot studio discussions, bitter Commons exchanges, soapy Palace statements, dingbat phone-ins, instant books, and all the opportunist rantings of bandwagoning prelates, academics, and journalists who had sadly missed their true vocation as cash drivers?

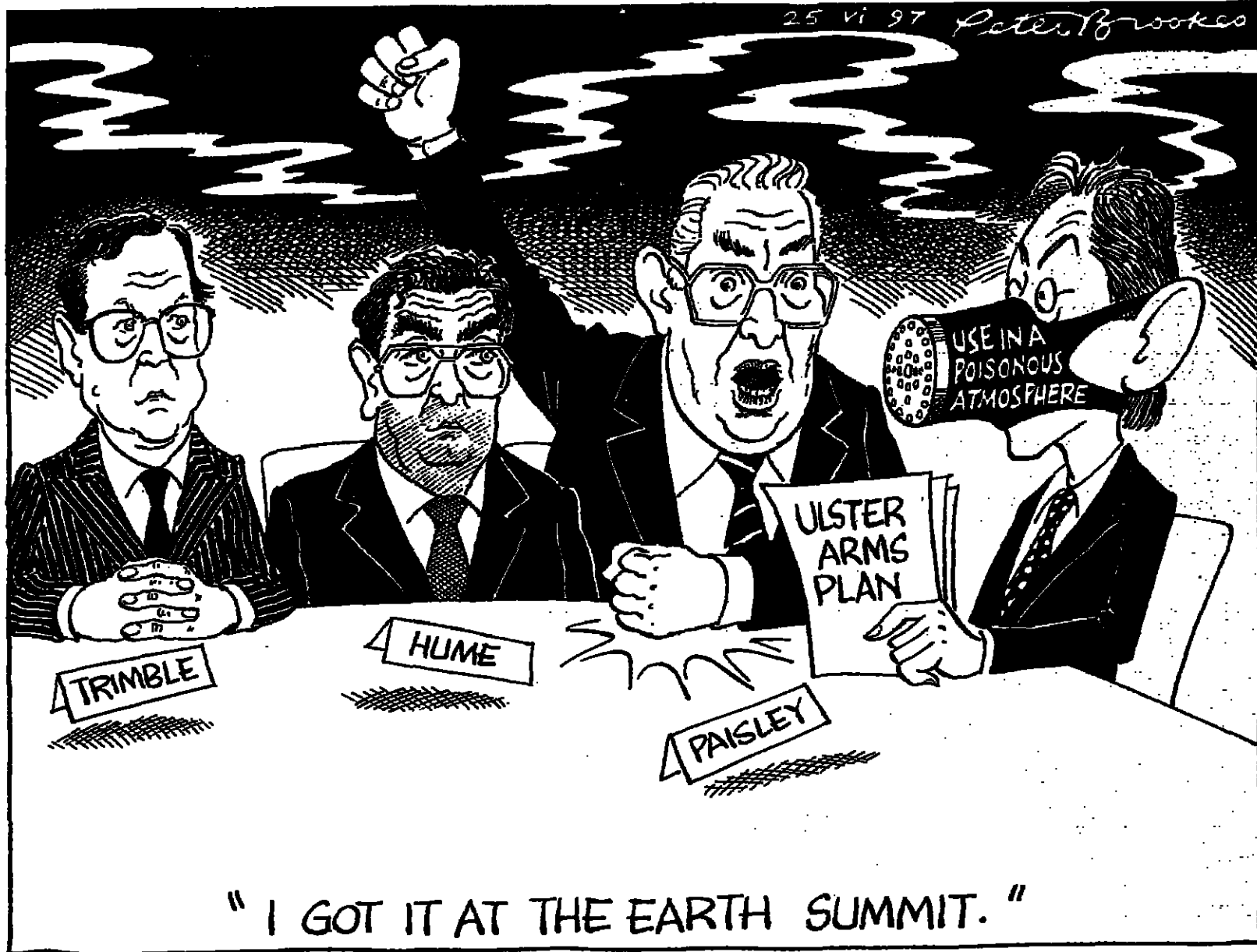
It was not to be. Hardly had the omnibus horribilis rattled wondrously off into the distance than there was another one along in a minute. Diana, Princess of Wales, took her son to the pictures, and the roof fell in, leaving the hapless manager of the Kensington Odeon staring down the wrong end of the 1985 Cinema Act and waiting that all of the cinemas in all of the towns all over the world, she had to walk into mine, and the Princess herself issuing a public apology not merely for his, but also for the rest of the gobsmacked population's, distress. I thank God only that she didn't buy the kid a tub of popcorn and a Coke. I doubt that the nation's fragile sanity could have withstood a *Newsnight* barney between Paxman and three barking dentists.

That it will long withstand what is now inevitably to follow I am even less certain. Throw open your window this morning, and the noise you will hear is of media lips being smacked at the thought that boys will be boys, and that these boys will be boys for many years yet, ushering in a profitable era of irresistible controversy to fill the vacuum of scandal fatigue left by the clapping-out of their parents' preposterous doings.

Any moment now, you may be sure, Prince William, though not yet 16, will shamefully attempt to buy a fireworks, whereupon the salesman, though as yet only on remand, will net a six-figure tabloid sum for his exclusive story, both *Panorama* and *World In Action* will be devoted to raucous Albert Hall discussions between firemen, people with three fingers, and job-threatened members of the Bangermakers' Union. Jack Straw will be yanked back from a fact-finding mission to Antibes, and a sobbingly contrite Princess of Wales will be compelled to extend her caring landmine exhortations to include Roman candles and Catherine wheels. What will come out only later, as the result of unstinting background research by several hundred journalists, is that the future King, such was his hurry to get to the shop, stepped off the platform of his moving bus before it had reached the stop, a transgression likely to keep the Privy Council toiling far into the night, and occasion a number of Liberal Democrat Private Member's Bills demanding restraining belts to be fitted to all bus seats.

How long this story continues to run will, of course, depend on how long it will take for the sale price to be negotiated on an amateur video showing Prince Harry putting a frog in his pocket, the *New At Ten* transmission of which will bring animal rights activists onto the streets in their thousands, only to clash with thousands of cyclists who spotted that after he pocketed the frog, the Prince mounted his bicycle without wearing a crash helmet, and wish to defend his right to do, even if it means putting the Department of Environment and Transport to the torch.

Where all this might end, do not ask me to predict. I can tell you only where it began.



## Unsustainable summitry

Tony Blair's globetrotting is wasteful, superfluous and exhausting. His survival depends on regaining control of his diary

The British Prime Minister faced the United Nations on Monday looking heavy and drawn. Jet lag had drained the sparkle from his eyes. His mouth seemed tired and his sentences cried out for a break. Tony Blair referred to his absent children with more than a tinge of bitterness. He was on his fifth summit, his seventh foreign trip in seven weeks in office. This weekend he is to leave for Hong Kong. This is madness.

When the Mr Duncan Sandys was criticised for never setting foot in his constituency, his reply was curt: "I was elected to represent the people of Streatham in Westminster, not the people of Westminster in Streatham." A Prime Minister is elected to govern Britain in Britain, not in the airport lounges, receiving lines, airless rooms and groaning banquets of international conference-land. If he wants to talk to his fellow leaders, he can telephone them. If he wants to hear interminable speeches, he can photograph, wine, dine and left short of sleep, he can join the Foreign Office.

Mr Blair is privately terse about his baptism of summitry. From his first European encounters in The Netherlands, to last week's funny clothes party in Denver, he has found summits vacuous and frustrating, no place for a man of action. Such meetings used to be ad hoc between great powers, on matters that required the trust of eyeball contact. Today they are little more than a social calendar: the G7, the European inter-governmentals, Nato, the UN "theme park" summits. They come round every year like Asot and Henley. They are as empty as they are lavish.

Both the G7 and the EU meetings were invented in the 1980s as informal gatherings, without protocol or hangers-on. Both have become rituals of chauvinist ostentation. World leaders travel with retinues that would make King Lear blush. An American President expects to take 300 security and personal staff and 400 journalists. The British are unique in their parsimony, but some 30 staff and hangers-on are regulars. The ill-prepared Amsterdam summit last week cost Europe's taxpayers £10 million. Journalists, 3,200 of them, needed trolleys to carry away their free gifts. At Denver, limousine gridlock meant each leader having to wait his turn for the Clinton handshake, red carpet and guard of honour.

On the occasions that I have visited these events, I have been amazed at the sheer waste of time devoted to protocol and entertainment. Most participants are jet-lagged and the tiredness is strengthening. No real work is done. Anything of moment has either been decided in advance by the "sherpas" or, as in Denver, will not be decided anyway. Photographers are everywhere, forcing participants to be constantly on parade. Such nonsense has consumed almost a quarter of Mr Blair's first 50 days.

When Baroness Thatcher took office in 1979, she told her Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, that she meant to be the first Prime Minister to put home affairs top of her agenda. He could go abroad and meet foreign leaders, if such was his fancy. She would stay at home. This commendable division of responsibility did not last. By the end of her reign, Lady Thatcher found foreign trips a refuge from the horrors of Westminster, a warm bath of glory. Abroad she was a stateswoman, at home a mere politician. She was abroad, symbolically at a Versailles extravaganza, when she was toppled.

I cannot believe Mr Blair has caught "summititis" already. But his diary secretary has plainly suffered a Foreign Office smash and grab raid. A ministerial diary is a trifle. You back it each evening, but by morning it has grown again. Unless guarded with a chainsaw, it sprouts leaves and branches by the minute, each one no sooner formed than it is heavy with expectations and potential disappointments. "I think he can just fit you in," says the aide. "There may be a short gap here, perhaps if we can call you back." The result is a frantic, distracted, exhausted leader controlled by a machine.

President Reagan was master of his diary. He once told a friend from the old days in California to "just drop by" when next in Washington. The friend

took him at his word. Yes, indeed the President was free, so why not drop by before lunch. The man found Reagan relaxed and alone. They chatted. The chat turned into lunch and lunch into a swim. After three hours the man had to leave for an appointment, realising to his surprise that nobody had disturbed the President throughout his stay. The story went round town, not that Reagan had lost control but the opposite. He was effortlessly in charge. There was time for a chat with a friend, and he was always fresh on parade.

There is no trip so ripe for a British boycott as a United Nations summit.

These events claim the moral supremacy of the UN to focus attention on the world's deprived or on threats to the ecosystem. They do this by the most archaic, extravagant and time-wasting contrivance, that of the international conference. The 1992 Rio summit took two weeks for 100 world leaders to produce 23,000 words, not one of which had the slightest effect. The leaders pledged themselves to limit deforestation, cut exhaust emissions, control overfishing, sustain bio-diversity and increase aid. They achieved none of these things. Figures produced at New York record the exact opposite of what was recommended in each category.

The UN's reaction was like that of a First World War general, to summon up yet more conferences and throw them into the fray. The one Rio commitment honoured to the letter was to hold another conference every five years. Fifty million pounds was blown on a "poverty summit" in Copenhagen in 1995, attended by 150 heads of government. The Emir of Kuwait reportedly spent £10 million on his retinue. Then came this week's assembly in New York, dubbed "Rio II".

An exasperated Mr Blair asked why these conclaves were necessary. Where was the Internet? Where was the cosmic

conferencing, the videophone link-ups, the interactive Websites that were supposed to render this ozone-busting, tax-depleting, waistline wrecking travel obsolete? The answer is that new technology would spoil the fun. There is no photo opportunity on a Website. Wimps telecommute. Real men confer. Thousands, indeed tens of thousands, of jobs depend on them doing so, bureaucrats, lobbyists, non-governmental organisations, academics, journalists, filmmakers, interpreters, travel agents, restaurateurs.

In *War and Peace*, Prince Bolkonsky arrives from the heat of battle to be welcomed in Vienna's diplomatic enclave. He is supplied with a soft nightshirt and feather pillow, and is fitted with chandeliers, jewelled ladies and vast dinner tables. Was this all real, he kept asking himself. His swift answer was no. To the dismay of all present, he left at once and returned to his regiment. I wonder if Mr Blair has the courage to do likewise.

Can he wield the axe over his diary? Can he wean the Foreign Office and the Downing Street lobby from their addiction to foreign trips? Can he use his spare time to walk in the Chilterns, play cricket with his children, say hello to his wife? In the words of the famous ad, can he "Just Say No"?

Rio II in New York is, of course, to be followed by Rio III in Tokyo in December. Lest anyone think the New York delegates were incapable of creative decision, they were minded to set up a new UN environment agency, possibly in Bonn. There is one UN Environment Agency already, but that is in Nairobi and is sunk in the usual corrupt inertia. The same stage army will thus arrive in Tokyo, pouring more gas into the atmosphere and guzzling raw whale. It will exorcise the shocking failure of member states to honour the edicts of the previous two Rios, and pledge itself to hold a fourth one, somewhere nice. The baggage train will trundle happily on.

If Mr Blair really wants to make an impact on green politics, he will boycott all these globetrotting jamborees. He will leave his jets and his limousines in their sheds. He will send his views on international relations on the Internet, where they are far more likely to be read. Meanwhile, Britain would gain by having a Prime Minister who rested at weekends, in the country house given to the nation specifically for that purpose.

### Simon Jenkins

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## Patten's lasting legacy

Jonathan Mirsky on  
Beijing's embrace  
of the Governor

If Tony Blair can keep his wits about him during his lightning visit to Hong Kong on Monday, the day of the handover to China, he will notice something. Just as the Labour Party has taken Thatcherism on board, Governor Chris Patten's successor, Tung Chee-hwa, has hoisted the flag of Pattenism.

This is the very same Pattenism which, not long ago, brought down on its begetter insults from Beijing: the Governor was a "whore" who would be "disgraced for a thousand years". It is the Pattenism denounced by Sir Percy Cradock, the supreme Foreign Office Sinologist who supervised the negotiations on Hong Kong in 1983-84. It is the Pattenism which frightened the Chinese chambers of commerce here so badly that hardly a single senior Hong Kong businessman has dared praise him in public for five years.

It would be easy to describe Mr Patten as a failure. He arrived in 1992 to install what he conceded was a political programme so modest it would have been derided elsewhere as condescending: to lower the voting age for the 60-member Legislative Council (LegCo) from 21 to 18, to give every working person a vote, and to enlarge the size of the professional constituencies so that many people had two votes.

In the 1995 election Democrats and their independent allies won more LegCo seats than any other party, and Beijing denounced the result as a violation of past British-Chinese agreements. On July 1 Mr Patten's LegCo will be replaced by one loyal to China, ten of whose members failed in the last election. By 2am on July 1 there will be a Chinese-designated chief executive, a Chinese garrison, new laws diminishing civil rights, and a communist apparatus — including a Ministry of State Security and a Public Security Bureau. At midnight the Union Jack will be lowered, the Red Flag raised, and the British Crown will disappear from the cap-badges and buttons of the uniformed Services.

A very British retreat and failure? Many certainly think so. But consider what Mr Tung and Beijing were saying at the beginning of this year. "Love of China and Hong Kong" were political mantras. "Stability" was the watchword. Free speech, demonstrations, and the registering of "political" societies, such as Amnesty and Greenpeace, were to be monitored by the police, and the press was warned to shun "subversion" and "treason".

Yet for the past three months such language has either been moderated or replaced by assurances that virtually everything will remain as it is. The limitations on speech and demonstrations remain vague but are far narrower: no advocacy of Tibetan or Taiwanese independence, issues that in Hong Kong surface as rarely as pandas. It will be all right, says Elsie Leung, Mr Tung's designated Secretary of Justice, to shout "Li Peng (the Chinese Premier) must resign", or to say that Tiananmen was badly mishandled. If, immediately after the handover, members of the dissolved LegCo make their way into the building where they no longer hold seats and give speeches from its balcony to supporters below, both Mr Tung and Ms Leung hint broadly that they will not be silenced. Not long ago Mr Tung referred to Tiananmen as "something that happened", as a piece of "baggage" which people here should lay to rest. Now he promises that the annual commemoration of the killings can take place.

Hong Kong Democrats, not long ago described as "bad-moutherers", are being urged to stand for re-election for the new LegCo, which the new regime promises will occur within a year. Some of Mr Tung's closest supporters say — in public — that there is no problem about "instability" and that Mr Patten can be proud of many of his achievements.

Why have things changed? There are several explanations. Tiananmen, in 1989, sparked off fear of China in Hong Kong and drove a million people into the streets. Mr Patten's modest proposals enlarged the arena for those with awakened political feelings to express their dissent. He came regularly before LegCo to defend his policies; no Governor had done this before. His policy secretaries have regularly explained themselves to the press.

Additionally, the public has made clear its demands for civil and human rights. Opinion polls showed concern for the Peking-approved LegCo; 60,000 people packed inner Hong Kong's largest public space for a candle-lit vigil commemorating Tiananmen. The public wrote hundreds of letters to Mr Tung pressing him not to legislate for restrictions on speech and assembly.

Then there is international pressure. After President Clinton recently met Martin Lou, the chairman of Hong Kong's Democrats, Mr Tung tactfully delayed his trip to America. The C8 leaders have warned China not to harm Hong Kong; Beijing and Mr Tung have heard them. Their response is to insist that virtually nothing will change after the handover.

The Governor himself remains popular: Mr Tung won 57 per cent approval in polls. Mr Patten almost 80 per cent. Although Mr Tung prefers "obligations" to "individual rights", he is hearing — and heading — a different message from abroad and from what China calls "the broad masses". As the last British Governor leaves Hong Kong on *Britannia* next week, he bequeaths the colony a political legacy which Beijing can no longer throw overboard.

## Forest chump

AS Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, flew to New York for the Earth summit, he left behind an environmental ruckus in his own backyard. Meacher, one of the better-off public school quonians in the Blair Cabinet, owns a small house in Hilcot End, a hamlet attached to the village of Ampney Crucis, in Gloucestershire. Recently, however, he filed a planning application to chop down 20 trees on his land in order to build a tennis court.

His neighbours are livid. "Have you ever heard of such a thing?"



Axeman... Meacher

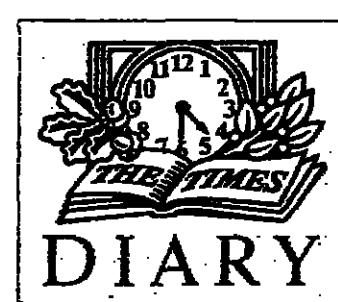
said one yesterday: "A Minister for the Environment who doesn't know the last thing about the environment." Worse, Meacher rarely uses the house. His constituency is in Oldham and he has a place in south London. "He is down here a few weekends a year at most," says his neighbour.

"He is very charming when he's here, but to think of chopping down all those trees for something as frivolous as a tennis court. Has he no idea how long it takes to recultivate a piece of woodland after it has been destroyed?"

The Cotswold District Council promises no favouritism for Meacher when his application comes before the planning sub-committee. Meacher's office said the putative tree-feller of Ampney Crucis was halfway across the Atlantic and unable to comment.

### Cut...

THERE were celebrations at the British Film Institute on Friday night when staff learnt that their director, Will "Saddam" Stevenson, was to announce his resignation this morning. He is to join Gordon Brown's team of



### DIARY

handover on Monday. They have organised their own concert, starring Vanessa Mae, the Singaporean violinist and swimsuit model. She has composed a "reunification overture" to be called *Happy Valley* after the Hong Kong race course where she will be performing.

policy wonks at the Treasury. Stevenson's dictatorial style of governance will not be missed. A chemist by training, he is blamed by many for sacrificing creative flair at the BFI in shiny marketing suits, and he has made no secret of his political ambition.

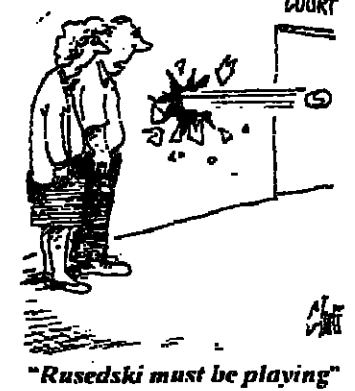
His departure leaves the BFI with two vacancies at the top. It is looking for a chairman to succeed Jeremy Thomas, the film producer whose successes include *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle* and *The Last Emperor*, and who leaves before the year is out. Friends of Melvyn Bragg say that he has been banging the drum rather obviously for the British film industry of late.

FOR THE second year running, the Prime Minister and his family are to spend their summer holidays in Tuscany. Secrecy shrouds their exact destination, but it is believed that they will once again be guests of the millionaire Labour MP Geoffrey Robinson, now the Paymaster General, with whom they stayed last August.

Robinson owns a holiday-castle worth £3 million near San Gimignano. A one-and-a-half mile drive runs through the olive groves to protect guests' privacy. On his last visit, Blair made a great impression on the local women who in the main Tuscan newspaper voted him "the most admired man of the summer" for his "love of life, his intelligence and his frank, bourgeois ways".

To Italian journalists last year, Blair said: "Tuscany? I love it. There's so much history and culture, the weather's great and I like the wine." It is all so different from the Blair's 1995 holiday destination: Butlin's, Bognor Regis.

CHILDREN noticing an extra attentiveness in their nannies these days have *The Lady* magazine to thank, as this summer it is launching a competition to find "The Nanny of the Year". Since it was founded in 1988, the weekly magazine has been the bible for the more traditional British nanny, listing hundreds of domestic positions each week. This August it will urge any families who feel



"Rusdski must be playing"



The nanny state

themselves to be blessed with a particularly good nanny to nominate her for the award.

"We will be looking for someone loving, caring and efficient," says Arline Usden, editor of *The Lady*. "We will not be influenced by age or qualifications." The winning nanny gets a weekend for two in the Selfridges Hotel in London, but various *Lady* employees feel this is rather *risqué*. "Most nannies are not married," says one of the magazine. "To offer a single girl a room for two is asking for trouble."

### Weaning ways

CHILDREN noticing an extra attentiveness in their nannies these days have *The Lady* magazine to thank, as this summer it is launching a competition to find "The Nanny of the Year". Since it was founded in 1988, the weekly magazine has been the bible for the more traditional British nanny, listing hundreds of domestic positions each week. This August it will urge any families who feel

P-H-S





## NO EXCUSES LEFT

Blair must emphasise that this is Sinn Fein's last chance

Peace depends on patience. But this afternoon the Prime Minister must spell out when his will be exhausted. Tony Blair has devoted considerable care and time to Northern Ireland's future. He took a political risk by authorising officials to talk to Sinn Fein only to see the IRA show what they thought of his goodwill by murdering two police officers. The anger that the Prime Minister felt then prompted him to agree "precisely" with the Unionist MP Ken Maginnis' assessment of the IRA as "ruthless killers and politically irredeemable". Mr Blair's accord with the Irish Government on decommissioning could give republicans a last chance of redemption. It requires, however, a straightforward explanation from Mr Blair of how decommissioning would work, and what the consequences of continued violence will be for the IRA. Negotiations require compromise but they also need clarity.

The basis for progress towards inclusive talks has existed for 18 months, since before the IRA ended its ceasefire. Senator George Mitchell, the talks chairman, developed the principle of "parallel decommissioning" where paramilitary organisations would gradually give up their weapons while talks towards a political settlement took place. The agreement reached between London and Dublin appears to be based on Senator Mitchell's original proposals. That is welcome in so far as it goes. Devils lurk in the detail.

Mr Blair must emphasise again that, even before decommissioning becomes relevant, entry to talks depends on a clear and permanent renunciation of violence from the IRA accompanied by an end, not just to military campaigns, but to intimidation and beatings. He should also make it clear that parallel decommissioning requires, from the beginning, the visible, verifiable, surrender of parts of the IRA's arsenal. Decommissioning, not talks about the possibility of decommissioning, should occur alongside

negotiations. Of course, even if the IRA was to hand over a significant tranche of its armoury, it would still retain the capability to return to war. The significance of decommissioning rests in its assertion that violence is at an end, and the reassurance it should give Unionists. If republicans are capable of responding seriously then there is hope.

The constitutional parties in the North, especially David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, should have a guarantee that the mechanics which will govern the handover of weapons are tight enough to prevent republicans wriggling out of their responsibilities. Mr Trimble has placed considerable trust in Mr Blair, and it seems justified so far. The Unionist leader appears inclined to support the Prime Minister's accord with Dublin, but if he is not to lose credibility with his supporters then he must not be invited to become party to an agreement which is less than watertight. If the Ulster Unionist leader were to sign up for a decommissioning scheme in principle which, in practice, allowed republicans to move at entirely their own pace then he, and progressive Unionism, would be in an impossible position.

It is the republicans who should be told that they will be placed in an impossible position if they do not call a ceasefire. They have a guarantee that if such a ceasefire is genuine, and deeds match words, then there is no impediment to their inclusion in talks and a final settlement. It will be difficult for the republican movement to adjust when violence has become both means and end for many but the Government must spell out the painful consequences of continuing the armed struggle. Sinn Fein should be told, by London, Dublin and the SDLP, that a settlement will be negotiated without it, the security machinery enhanced to frustrate its operations and the diplomatic community mobilised to end its fundraising abroad. If the IRA rejects this chance for peace, there are no excuses left.

## THE NEW MEN

William Hague's baptism and his lacklustre front bench

For just two months, it was possible for the Tories to patronise the new Government. On one side of the Speaker sat John Major, 18 years in Parliament, 6½ of them as Prime Minister. On the other was Tony Blair, in Parliament only since 1983 and in office for a matter of weeks. Now the opportunity exists no longer: William Hague, who made his debut as leader yesterday, is greener still. This may have been the Prime Minister's first G7 summit; but suddenly it was he who looked experienced.

This has deprived the Conservatives of what used to be one of their best lines of attack. Eighteen years of continuous office gave the party an authority that Labour always lacked. The advantage was never going to last for long. But it will be missed in these first few months, when the Opposition needs to land blows on a sometimes over-exuberant Government. Mr Hague, unlike most of his leadership rivals, is hardly in a position to condescend.

So the new Tory leader will have to try to best Mr Blair on argument alone. Yesterday, in his first Commons outing, he acquitted himself respectably. The subject matter — global warming and the outcome of the Denver summit — was new to him. But Mr Hague showed a quick intelligence. The Tory leader dealt with Labour heckling calmly and with an assurance well beyond his years. His questions on the Prime Minister's statement were sharply focused. He managed to throw in the odd gibe about the social chapter, but the subject provided little opportunity for party point-scoring.

Mr Hague's first big test will come today, with Prime Minister's Questions. Even

harder will be next Wednesday, traditionally the worst day in the Leader of the Opposition's year, when he has to reply, unprepared, to the Chancellor's Budget speech. Mr Hague, good at thinking on his feet, has to think hard in advance about how to turn this challenge into an opportunity.

Yesterday the new Tory leader also turned his attention to his front bench, designing one for the television cameras and another for the party. He flanked himself at the dispatch box with the old and the new: Sir Norman Fowler on his right and John Major on his left. Further along sat Gillian Shephard, the only woman in the Shadow Cabinet but, as Shadow Leader of the House, one who will often occupy a seat within lens reach of the Opposition leader.

There are few women in Mr Hague's new team that was completed yesterday. Just two others — Cheryl Gillan and Angela Browning — join 49 men on the front benches. No place was found for Ann Widdecombe, despite her newfound fame. Indeed, the list of refusniks and rebuffed is as interesting as the official appointments. David Davis, David Maclean and John Whittingdale also languish on the backbenches. Yet into shadow jobs come such unremarkable performers as Patrick Nicholls and Sir Patrick Cormack.

The best team has been put into Central Office, where Archie Norman will use his retail and marketing skills to help Lord Parkinson to breathe life into a moribund party. Mr Hague has learnt one thing from Mr Blair's experience: success in Parliament has to be matched by a revitalised party on the ground.

## FLYING SORCERERS

Myths from Mars satisfy needs older than proof or disproof

Next Wednesday is the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident. More than 100,000 believers are expected at this otherwise unremarkable town in the New Mexico desert in order to celebrate the birth of a potent modern myth, and to scan the sky for omens. For at Roswell on July 2, 1947, the age of the flying saucer was born.

Within days of the first sighting *The Times* became the first British source for the new phrase found by *The Oxford English Dictionary*: "Reports that dish-like objects, nicknamed 'flying saucers', have been seen travelling through the air at great speed have come from the United States and Canada." The vivid slang was soon replaced by the less flippant "unidentified flying object", or UFO. And the notion of alien visitors from space had taken root in the public imagination. The books, comics and films have ranged from doom-laden thrillers in the jet-stream of *The War of the Worlds* to cute encounters with loveable aliens. *ET* was the best Disney film that Disney never made.

Like most myths, the flying saucer had its genesis in real events. Fifty years ago a rancher found strange, shiny debris on the sand near Roswell. The army air forces issued a news release about the landing of a "flying disk", but next day changed their story to a downed weather balloon. Local residents declare that they watched soldiers put hairless aliens into body bags. And the modern myth took off. A recent Gallup poll found that 42 per cent of American college

graduates believe that flying saucers have visited the Earth. More than 70 per cent of Americans believe their Government knows more about UFOs than it lets on. Thousands of Americans have reported being abducted by aliens.

The myth of UFOs sprang from the dawn of the atomic age and fed on fears of the Cold War and anxieties about new doomsday science and technologies. A nation of immigrants has an atavistic belief in the possibilities of immigration. And the last frontier for a land of new frontiersmen lies upwards. Space is not remote at all. As NASA has shown, it is only an hour's drive away if a car could go straight upwards. Millennial anxiety and the public's healthy suspicion of official Washington attracted conspiracy and cover-up theorists with paranoid fantasies. Above all, ufology is a religious myth satisfying the age-old yearning that man is not alone in the Universe.

UFOs can be interpreted as a conflict between science and pseudo-science. It is alarming that so many millions "know" more about aliens than they do about thermodynamics. The tourist authorities of New Mexico are true and profiteering believers. Yesterday the US Air Force reported that the first flying saucer was a weather balloon and that the hairless aliens were dummies used to test parachutes. It can think again. More than an official report will be needed to ground the flying myths from outer space.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Saving the planet with green taxes and efficient energy

From Dr Eoin Lees, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust

Sir, With domestic energy prices falling (report, "Spotiswoode gets her way over gas price curbs", Business, June 19), the duty on the gas and electricity regulators to take the environment into account increases in importance.

Since 1994, the Director-General for Electricity Regulation has required the electricity companies to implement a wide range of energy-efficiency schemes. These have proved highly successful and popular with customers, who are benefiting by more than £5 for each £1 of electricity company investment, and they are to be extended for a further two years from 1998. Sadly, however, Clare Spotiswoode, the Director General of Gas Supply, has not required gas companies to implement similar schemes.

Environmental concerns are currently in the ascendancy, and the Prime Minister now says that Britain will be taking a lead in the international effort to reduce greenhouse emissions (reports, June 23, 24). But the energy regulators are in a strong position to make an impact as far as energy efficiency is concerned. Let us therefore hope that Ms Spotiswoode will reconsider her position before the Kyoto conference in December.

Yours faithfully,  
EOIN LEES,  
Chief Executive, Energy Saving Trust,  
11-12 Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
June 24.

From Mr T. A. Hagan

Sir, Whatever inefficiencies governments may be accused of, their astuteness in the field of taxation can rarely be doubted. New Labour is making the most traditional of noises in this respect.

Vehicle fuel, like tobacco, is a prime example where taxation alone has very little effect upon consumption. More draconian methods of control are eschewed as unworkable, a term that may be paraphrased as being likely dramatically to reduce tax revenue.

Would it be hopelessly cynical to suggest that, in the case of products

whose demand is unaffected by price, taxation is the least efficient means of controlling consumption but the most effective way of increasing revenue?

Yours faithfully,  
T. A. HAGAN,  
25 Lanyon Road,  
Playing Place, Truro, Cornwall.  
June 23.

From Mr A. D. Harris

Sir, If company-car taxes are increased further a "penal" element will be introduced. This can be avoided by companies substituting extra salary for the provision of cars, something many already do.

Yours sincerely,  
A. D. HARRIS,  
10 Evertons Close,  
Droitwich, Worcestershire.  
June 23.

From Mr Asanga Gunatillaka

Sir, While increasing tax on fuel and company cars seems a step in the right direction for achieving the Rio target, it is important that this extra revenue should be channelled back into public transport and not scattered throughout the Government's coffers.

London's Underground is a prime example of chronic underinvestment. While the city is booming on the surface, its underground system is falling into a state of ruin, and delays for commuters on the Tube are now part of Londoners' daily trek to work. Mr Prescott must take major steps to halt the decay. A more user-friendly public transport system is needed before old habits can be changed for the better.

Yours faithfully,  
ASANGA GUNATILLAKA,  
15 Bentley Close, Horndean,  
Waterlooville, Hampshire.  
June 23.

From Mr E. S. Hooper, HM Coroner for South Yorkshire (East District)

Sir, I came to work here in my motor car today because the first bus from where I live does not arrive until 10 o'clock and the last one home leaves at five this afternoon.

In deciding what car tax (and tax on

car insurance) I should pay (report, June 23) the Chancellor of the Exchequer should take into account the availability of public transport. Londoners have buses 24 hours a day, unlike those of us who live in Lincolnshire.

For environmental reasons Londoners' car taxes may be increased, but we who live in areas without adequate public transport should be taxed less than now, until realistic public transport justifies "green" taxes in rural areas.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY HOOPER,  
HM Coroner for South Yorkshire  
(East District),  
5 Union Street,  
Off St Sepulchre Gate West,  
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.  
June 23.

From Mr Dirk H. R. Jones

Sir, If raising revenue is indeed secondary to the "green" motive as proclaimed, would it not be far more effective to reduce taxation on items which encourage energy saving?

Why not zero-rate VAT on insulation, glass, solar heating units etc? I would love to be "greener", but first I am taxed for the privilege and then the local council says my roof solar panels would be "out of character".

A bit more carrot would be far more beneficial than yet more stick.

Yours faithfully,  
DIRK H. R. JONES,  
Roke's Drift, 26 Kenylands Road,  
Sonning Common, Oxfordshire.  
June 23.

From Mr P. B. Silcocks

Sir, With exquisite timing, my local railway station has announced a 25 per cent increase in parking charges in the same week that the Government is exhorting us to commute by public transport.

Yours etc,  
PAUL SILCOCKS,  
Wingates, Shotton Lane,  
Barnford, South Yorkshire.  
p.b.silcocks@nottingham.ac.uk  
June 24.

### Union reply on Prince and politics

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, I am surprised that some of our correspondents (letters, June 19) should support the breach of our unwritten constitution which enjoins the Royal Family to remain outside political debate. In condemning the state education service as a "somewhat failed system" in his television interview with Sir David Frost on June 15 the Prince of Wales made a highly controversial political statement.

I am equally astonished that some support Prince Charles in his assertion that it is the system which is at fault, implying that individuals carry no responsibility for their own fate. Let me quote the Chief Inspector himself, Chris Woodhead, writing the introduction to his latest annual report: "Despite the intensity of the national debate about the need to redress moral truths, most teachers do an excellent job in contributing to their pupils' social and moral development."

Confusingly, the Prince of Wales also questioned unspecified teaching methods, while at the same time calling for a "mature consensus". This already exists. Most teachers believe that a mix of methods is the appropriate way forward, a view also supported by the Chief Inspector.

As for standards, all the objective evidence by way of national tests and public examination results, together with participation rates in further and higher education, indicate that these have risen over the years, even though they may not be improving quickly enough or be sufficient to compete successfully with those of some other nations.

Far from being "reasoned", as suggested by Mr Ken Jones (letter, June 19), the Prince's intervention was ill-informed, ill-considered and illogical. By branding the state education service as "somewhat failed" he was dismissing some half a million teachers as failures.

You cannot enter the political arena and accuse others of failure without exposing yourself. That is just another reason why the Royal Family should respect our unwritten constitution and keep out of politics.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL de GRUCHY,  
General Secretary,  
NASUWT,  
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2.  
June 20.

### Delius's lost son

From Mr Mark Pappenheim

Sir, Whatever revelations the violinist Tasmin Little (not Tamsin as you have it) may think she has in store for us next month in BBC2's *Delius's Lost Son* (July 16), she should not read too much into the fact that the Bradford-born composer and his presumed son by a black woman in Florida, one Frederick W. Baker, apparently bore the same first name.

At the time of his supposedly seminal first visit to Florida, in 1894-95, the 22-year-old Delius was still known by his given name of Fritz. He was not to change it to Frederick until 1903, the year of his marriage to Jelka.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK PAPPENHEIM,  
5 Toronto Terrace,  
Leaves, East Sussex.  
m.pappenheim@bt.com  
June 16.

### Sales patter

From Mr Vernon Kennard

Sir, Having purchased a "pair of chinos" in Detroit, your correspondent, Mr Andrew Allison (letter, June 17), was encouraged by the sales assistant to "enjoy your pants".

Some of us denizens of the Outer Hebrides have never heard of chinos and need to know what they are and why they make you pant.

Are they liable to affect us out here in any way or, worse still, frighten the sheep?

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON KENNARD (crofter),  
Boghaigas,  
Isle of Harris,  
Outer Hebrides.  
vernon@easynet.co.uk  
June 18.

ate way forward, a view also supported by the Chief Inspector.

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Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL de GRUCHY,  
General Secretary,  
NASUWT,  
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2.  
June 20.

### Speaking up for art

From the Director of the National Portrait Gallery

Sir, It is neither necessary to wait until November nor to travel to Liverpool to see paintings by young British artists (letter, June 23).

On Thursday, the 18th BP Portrait Award exhibition opens at the National Portrait Gallery in London. As always, it has attracted huge numbers of entries from artists under the age of 40. The standard is, if anything, higher than in previous years. It demonstrates that the act of painting continues to absorb the creative energies of young artists.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES SAUMAREZ SMITH,  
Director,  
National Portrait Gallery,  
St Martin's Place, WC2.  
csaumarezsmith@npg.org.uk  
June 23.

### A legal career

From Mr John Pelican

Sir, The Open University and the College of Law are set to disappoint would-be lawyers (report, "OU degree will widen access to legal career", June 17).

Many mature, able people have already trained for the law, at enormous personal expense, only to be blocked from practice by the ageism and unadventurous recruitment policy of chambers. The new OU law course will add to the number of such people, and to the aggregate misery caused thereby. *Caveant emptores!*

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PELICAN,  
Flat C,  
27 Maude Road, Camberwell, SES.  
June 18.

### New Oxford quad sets dons at odds

From Professor Emeritus Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, Simon Jenkins's delightful and perceptive article ("Oxford's dreaming minaret", June 21) rightly dwells on the benefits of a much-needed centre for the study of the Islamic world. But equally stimulating is his informed appraisal of Oxford's very varied architectural enterprises in recent decades.

Many who have studied in detail the site and plans of the gifted Abdel Wahed al-Wakil share the opinion of the President of Magdalen, quoted by Mr Jenkins, that the proposal is "enchanting, with quadrangles and gardens leading into one another in the best Oxford fashion".

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies has earned a deserved reputation for openness and excellence of scholarship during the 12 years since its foundation. Individuals of all faiths and philosophies have always been welcomed to lectures, seminars and other activities, and to participate in free discussion.

The contribution to Oxford and Britain by those responsible for the centre has been characterised by generosity and a desire to deepen understanding and to extend constructive dialogue throughout the Commonwealth and the world.

Yours truly,  
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,  
233 Woodstock Road, Oxford.  
June 21.

From Mr Mark Barrington-Ward

Sir, Simon Jenkins is wrong to treat the dispute over the Oxford Islamic studies centre as a battle of the styles. The objection to this building, as to so many developers' proposals, is that it is too big for its site. It is a storey or more higher than its recently built neighbours. It will be as high as New College's overbearing Victorian buildings in Holywell Street.

The design, with its three-sided courtyard at the eastern end, depends on keeping open the remaining land on either side of the approach road from Manor Place. But the Islamic studies centre does not control this area. Merton College kept it, offering only a right of way. Both Merton and St Catherine's have expressed interest in building there. If building were allowed the total result would be gross overdevelopment, hemming in Holywell cemetery, now an official wildlife sanctuary.

The use of this L-shaped piece of land needs to be planned as a whole with proper regard for its surroundings.

Yours sincerely,  
MARK BARRINGTON-WARD,  
8 Apsley Road, Oxford.  
June 22.

### Town v gown

From Mr Philip Rogers

Sir, If the city council allows a business school to be built in Rewley Road (report, June 18), bang goes Oxford's last chance to have an integrated transport interchange, an hotel and associated commercial development on this former station site.

Too much university building has been permitted recently on what might be regarded as land for the citizens. St Anne's has student accommodation going up in South Parade. Wadham is building on ground which was once designated for a new Summertown library.

The university does have other options. What about the Local Examinations Delegacy premises in Ewert Place, now on loan to the University of Cambridge?

There is another prime site in the centre of Oxford which has remained derelict for centuries. Christ Church Meadow has enough room for a business school and an Islamic centre. This could be developed to provide a river walk to equal the Backs. The university has a moral duty to use its own land first.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP ROGERS,  
8 Bampton Road, Oxford.  
June 18.

### Newnham's dilemma

From Mr Ben O'Loughlin

Sir, I was interested to read today that at Newnham College, Cambridge, a woman who was a man should not be a fellow because fellows had to be women and that they had all "been made monkeys of".

Yours, baffled,  
BEN O'LOUGHLIN,  
20 West End,  
Brampton, Huntingdon.  
June 24.

From Mr Martin F. Marx Evans

Sir, When I went up some 35 years ago, it was said that the fellows of Caius, a college forbidden to dogs, preserved both the principles of their statutes and their respect for the individual when the problem of a new Master's household pet was resolved by the declaration that "the Master's dog shall be deemed a cat".

I remain, Sir, etc.  
MARTIN MARX EVANS,  
The Wilderness,  
3 Murswell Lane, Silverstone,  
Towcester, Northamptonshire.  
June 24.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk











Soft news becomes hard, but some things never alter

## Men behaving badly still make the news

On Monday the group called Women in Journalism will publish the results of an inquiry into a fair question. Has the rise of women into the higher bastions of editorial power been reflected in editorial content? Or has the toughness of the news business made men of them all?

I have not seen an advance copy of the report, never having joined the aforesaid organisation because of my unreconstructed belief that journalism has been very good to women. When I see the horrors still inflicted on women in science and academia — making it hard for them to get published — I cannot get too exercised about the low percentage of women editors nor even about the persistent media portrayal of the working mother as the cause of every social ill from child obesity to the vanishing rainforest.

That there has been a softening of the news agenda in recent years, everybody can see. Yet I doubt that it can be traced to the changing sex ratio among the news decision-makers. Television deserves a large part of the blame, or — to my mind — credit. Radio, too. With the day's headlines delivered as they happen, newspapers have had to fill increasingly voluminous pages with background stories and features on health, lifestyle, and entertainment, bolstered by the kind of cut-out-and-keep detail that is print's advantage over screen.

But the main agent of change is the revolution in attitude to what the world is about. Sex, family, matters of home and heart, are now of burning interest, if only because of the trouble they make when they go wrong. Soft news has become hard. On the front pages every day are stories that once would be relegated to the "women's page". Not only do papers want women readers, but men readers, too, care about child support, sperm counts and the increasing evidence that if we still cannot expect to live forever, medical research offers the hope, or threat, of a much longer span.

Yes, it is a cause for regret that the old-style lengthy daily reports of parliamentary proceedings have disappeared. But you can buy *Hansard* or access it on the Internet if you want to know all the glorious detail.

When was the equinox — the divide after which ordinary living became as newsworthy as politics and economics? I'd love to think it was in February 1922, upon the publication of *Ulysses*, wherein Leopold Bloom tells a crowd of Dublin drunks that "Force, history, hatred, all that... it's the very opposite of that that is really life." But the 1960s is probably a more realistic answer. American media pundits are more

precise. They date the humanisation of news the moment in November 1963 (reshown on Sunday on BBC2's history of television news) when Walter Cronkite broke down and wept on camera while announcing the death of President Kennedy.

No editor, regardless of sex, can alter the fact that the main events to be reported every day tell of men behaving badly. News is from Mars, features are from Venus. Torturers are male. Surrogate mothers are female. To make science or social trends the leading story of the day is very difficult, hard as *The Independent* tries. The recent scientific research paper suggesting that there may be a genetic explanation for why one sex is combative and the other compassionate was the rare exception. Similarly, no history, hatred and all that, will be able to ignore the outraging big story: the blurring of the sexes. That is not to say that she or he will give the story the sympathetic treatment that women's equality campaigners would like. There is still a sharp division of views on the desirability of realigning the roles of the sexes. But the gulf now is determined by religious and moral beliefs, not by sex.

The rise of the male nude in advertisements, incidentally, is more likely a recognition of gay rights to do with women. Using bodies as commercial lures is hardly progress — rather, exploitation as before.

What a week for surprises. The Independent Television Commission broke the monastic silence it usually keeps before naming the winner in a competition for a franchise. By suggesting to Granada and Carlton Television that their bid for the commercial digital terrestrial franchise would look better if they dropped their third partner, BSkyB (part-owned by the owners of *The Times*), the ITC gave a wink that was as good as a nod. The ITC awarded the Granada-Carlton consortium the franchise, although it admitted it preferred the programme promises of DTN, the rival applicant. Why then was Granada-Carlton chosen? Because the ITC is mindful of its legislative obligation to get digital terrestrial off to a fast start. Should Parliament ask an industry regulator to be a promoter as well? That's like asking traffic police to sell cars. Another thought: Jonathan Aitken showed that a good biography stems from sympathy with the subject. His fine line of Richard Nixon is the best I shall ever know of either man. When the disgraced litigant emerges, his line is waiting for him: "You won't have Aitken to kick around any more."



BRENDA MADDOX

## The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel who crossed his fingers and signed the cheque?

### ● DORITOS SNACKS

**THE CLIENT**  
Ted Linehan, marketing director, corn and snacks, Walker's Snack Foods.

**WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT?**  
Bounce (outdoor scenes inside a tumble dryer), Fairy Liquid, Fairy Automatic (Jan Francis), Salt 'n' Lineker crisps, Walker's Snack Shack.

**THE AGENCY**  
BMP DDB

**WHAT'S THE PLOT?**  
Michael Winner is sitting on a film set between shots. He is talking about Doritos' new £10,000 movie money promotion. His message is that you can win money on this but I'm so rich and arrogant it doesn't matter a damn to me.

**WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?**  
Doritos doesn't have a sufficiently different image. We want it to be a little bit edgy, a little bit different. Walker's crisps are the safe option. Doritos is all about taking risks.

**WHAT WAS MICHAEL WINNER LIKE?**  
Fine. To be honest, I thought he would be bold and brash but, in the pre-production meetings, I thought he was slightly nervous. While he was talking there was a slight tremor in his voice.

**WAS HE DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH? ALWAYS DEMANDING A BETTER TABLE AT LUNCH, ETC?**  
No. He was quite



Scarer than *Death Wish IV*, Michael Winner stars and directs himself in his latest made-for-TV movie

happy to look at different ideas. I think he enjoyed sending himself up.

**WAS IT EXPENSIVE?**  
It cost £75,000 including Michael Winner. He directed it so that was a bit of a saving.

**WHO IS IT AIMED AT?**  
Mainly 16 to 34-year-olds looking for anything that's cool — but we're always looking down to 11 to 16-year-olds aspiring to be older too.

**WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU?**  
It made me laugh. It was also simple. It was a clear outline of what the customer is going to get.

**WHAT'S THE BEST SCRIPT YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT?**  
That's easy. "Salt 'n' Lineker" with Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne bursting into tears. I bombed all the way home and showed it to my wife which normally never happens. She thought that I'd gone mad.

**AND THE WORST?**  
A couple of pretty dodgy Nettle Newman adverts for Fairy. The idea had worked so well we were reluctant to move away. We probably ran it three years too long. We used to get appalling research results.

DAVID MCGRATH

## Selling the wrong image

Some ads do more harm than good, insists Belinda Archer

THE RECENT pulling of the Rover 600 "hostage" commercial begged a rather sensitive question for adland and the marketing community: can advertising actually do more harm than good?

The film, which cost an estimated £500,000 to make, depicted the exchange of a British diplomat for a tribal freedom fighter. Controversy raged over the fact that the blindfolded captive only knew he was safe after recognising the plush lines of the rescue car's interior — a Rover 600.

More than 100 viewers complained to the Independent Television Commission, including a hostage's wife, who received the backing of Terry Waine, the former Beirut prisoner.

This drama was nothing new. Agencies have always dreamt up ill-judged executions that offend the public and trigger complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority upheld 720 complaints against press and poster adverts last year, while the ITC upheld 116.

Some believe that all publicity has to be good publicity, and that the associated negative media attention only makes the advertising pound stretch further. This is not always the case: a banned or pulled ad can have a damaging knock-on effect to the advertiser, harming its image and even denting sales.

About five years ago, BT ran a consumer press campaign claiming it was slashing its prices. It transpired, however, that rates were being cut for business calls only, and that the cost of consumer calls was actually going up.

The misleading claim was rumoured, negative publicity ensued and BT's share price actually fell.

James Crawford, director of external affairs at the ASA, says: "A case can definitely be built for an ad doing more harm than good. There have been several examples of bad publicity generated by an advertisement having a pretty

dire effect on the brand, and in many instances the effect has lasted several years."

In Rover's case, there was an immediate financial blow because a costly commercial had to be pulled at a crucial time for a car advertiser, and thousands of pounds were lost for cancelling booked airtime. The long-term effect of the mistake is not quantifiable, although Martin Rumades, group marketing director, insists there will be "no damage to Rover sales or the brand".

An advert's damaging effects can reach far beyond turnover or corporate reputation. Paul Simons, the chief executive of TBWA Simons Palmer, who is chairing a Marketing Forum conference in September on the value of brands, explains: "If a communication is damaging, the effect is significant and endures on the component parts of the brand equity — that is not just on the consumer, but on the shareholders, say, if it is a public company, or the retailers, if it relies on the retail trade for distribution."

AGENCIES also stand to lose from an "offensive" ad. An account can be pulled if an execution backfires, and clients have been known to avoid agencies that have notched up complaints against their work.

Perhaps predictably, there is great difficulty in nailing the damaging effect of advertising. Several other forces influence a company's success besides above-the-line activity — from separate marketing initiatives to its distribution arrangements, for example — and, naturally, agencies are swift to stifle any claims that what they do can be harmful. But if we are to believe in the power of advertising — and latest ASA figures indicate that British clients believed in it to the tune of £12 billion last year (a 9 per cent increase on 1995) — it would seem we must believe that it can swing both ways, injuring a company's operations as much as achieving the opposite, infinitely more desirable effect.

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elling the  
ong image  
Belinda Archer



## Drawn and quartered

Most of Britain's best cartoonists were secretly rooting for William Hague in the Tory leadership contest last week. Few, I suspect, are Tories but they had been drawing the roly-poly Kenneth Clarke, with cigar, Hush Puppies, bulging eyes and rumped suit bursting over the ample stomach, for years. Hague offered cartoonists a new challenge — and his endorsement by Margaret Thatcher was an extra gift. Suddenly an old favourite with gilet eyes, string of pearls, swinging handbag and hands like claws, was back in the frame.

So, an old image was married with a new one. All the cartoonists — Peter Brookes of *The Times*, Steve Bell in *The Guardian*, Nicholas Garland in *The Daily Telegraph*, Trog in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Peter Schrank in *The Independent on Sunday* and Gerald Scarfe in *The Sunday Times* — seized on the same image: mother and son, teacher and pupil, ruler and ruled, Thatcher's political child. As Garland put it: "The hand that rocks the cradle..."

As Kenneth Baker, the former Conservative Party chairman, notes in his history of political cartoons (Thames and Hudson), the amusing and acerbic cartoon can be more memorable than a measured political judgment and can ruffle the mighty. Cartoonists also like their targets to have recognisable props — the cigar for Churchill, the pipe for Harold Wilson, the

### PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

handbag for Thatcher. "The Thatcher handbag became the symbol of her authority. It was her sceptre."

Thatcher's handbag became her symbol of authority — her sceptre

short trousers. Scarfe and Garland portray him as a baby rocked in Thatcher's arms. Wally Fawkes (Trog) goes for the double-breasted suit with Hague as Thatcher's puppet. They all go for that big, bald head.

Nicholas Garland sees Hague as an "absolute gift". "He's a curious creature, so odd looking, an elderly man in

a young man's double-breasted body. He has that quality of eternal old age. He looks weirdly elderly, with dead eyes, shadowed by that brow and the huge domed forehead. He's good fun to caricature."

Mrs Clarke once told Garland that she appreciated his cartoons of her husband because he drew him as a cheerful and unafraid William. Garland sees Hague as another character from Richard Crompton — an up-tight Hubert Lane. Brookes admits that he has become obsessed with Hague over the past two weeks. He has been the subject of five of his past six cartoons as he sought to encapsulate the little boy of 36 going on 63, the distinctive bald head, the button nose, the cheesy grin and the slightly compressed face with the small gap between mouth and chin and the big gap between eyes and head.

He has drawn Hague as a schoolboy, the Mekon, the millennium dome, the crown on Thatcher's Ascot hat (bought by Lady Thatcher's office), and stuffing a Hush Puppy into Clarke's mouth.

It took Brookes a year before he was satisfied with his drawings of John Major but he thinks he has already

captured Hague. He draws him with short trousers, domed forehead and — acknowledging that the subject seems to smile a lot — a long line with two distinctive smiles for his mouth. As a final check he will scrutinise Hague in the flesh from the Commons press gallery today during his first encounter with Tony Blair.

Unlike Brookes, Steve Bell had no difficulty with John Major. He captured the former prime minister by drawing him as Superman wearing his underpants over his trousers. For the left it became a defining image. It was Clarke who baffled Bell. As he tried to convey a "big, fat slob with bulging eyes and Hush Puppies", Bell found that he could not quite get his caricature to look like Clarke. Along with Brookes and Garland, he thinks Hague will be easier. "The short trousers could last."

Perhaps because they are such jolly characters and draw (art school) instead of write (university), cartoonists tend to be teased by fellow journalists. It becomes a game to try not to smile at the latest offering from the pocket cartoonist or to ask Brookes how the doodles are going and whether he's using his colouring box today.

Yet they are among the most erudite of journalists and have one of the most stressful jobs in newspapers. At its best their

work is art. Only a few journalists — parliamentary sketch writers, some leader writers, cartoonists — are required to produce original work every day instead of simply reporting events.

Brookes does five and four big leader page cartoons a week. Brookes does five as well as a *Spectator* cover once

often changing tack as the main news stories change.

Many of the results from all three cartoonists become collectors' items — and many of the collectors are their victims. Yesterday morning Brookes was taking a call at 9.30 from a potential buyer. The cartoon (shown above) was a characteristically witty Brookes play

on two stories, subliminally recalling the row over Diana, Princess of Wales taking her sons to *The Devil's Own* by drawing Thatcher leading Hague — note the handbag, Hague's smile and the trousers — to a showing of *Back to the Future* at the Odeon.

As Kenneth Baker points out, politicians and cartoonists need each other. To be caricatured for politicians is a sign that they have arrived. So cartoons can sell for up to £200 and collectors include Edward Heath, Michael Heseltine, Jeffrey Archer, Kenneth Baker, Paddy Ashdown and Michael Portillo. Robin Cook and John Prescott (but not since he was portrayed as a dog) have bought Steve Bell.

As Margaret Thatcher was caricatured, she was often also unintentionally flattered — as Iron Lady or the prime minister who wore the trousers. Only Mr Hague himself can determine whether he remains Thatcher's poodle for the cartoonists, or becomes Hague the Hammer.



Brookes with apologies to the Eagle

a fortnight, a job he shares with Garland.

On weekday mornings Brookes wakes up at 6.25 with Radio 4's *Prayer for Today* and is himself praying — for ideas — when *Today* broadcasts its first news headlines. With a deadline of 6.30pm, he has 12 hours to follow the news, think of an idea, sell it to the editor and then to draw it.

The fall of the Aitken case vindicates public service journalism, says Ian McBride

## The case for reform of the libel laws

The *World in Action* team never speaks of "investigative journalism". When someone is pursuing one of those tricky stories about a corrupt politician or a bent policeman or dirty tricks by a big corporation, they are on a "grope". Grope is what those programme makers do. They grope in the dark, and try their best to make out the shape of the truth. It takes weeks and months of care, persistence and judgment to get to the point where a programme like *Jonathan of Arabia* — the *World in Action* which produced Jonathan Aitken's libel action — can be transmitted. A slog to produce evidence no one wants you to know about, the most careful combing by the lawyers, thumb-sucking by editorial executives, some furrowed brows perhaps among senior managers. And never more than when the risk of a libel action is high.

That is the process vindicated by the collapse of Mr Aitken's libel action — proper journalistic enquiry is upheld; the consequences of defeat would have been enormous. Had Mr Aitken been able to hold his triumphant press conference, with a healthy damages award in his back pocket, to denounce the journalists and television programmes as a "cancer", the spectacular chill would have blown through every newsroom and broadcast production office in Britain. "Remember Aitken" would have been the reaction whenever someone produced the beginnings of a story of malpractice in public life. Yet the way our libel laws work, it was all too possible.

What happens is this. *World in Action* makes a programme which lays out evidence of Mr Aitken having been in the pocket of a foreign

royal family, challenges his concealment of some of his interests and connections, and calls into question his truthfulness. Proper public-service journalism — examination of the little-known conduct of someone in high public office. Mr Aitken won't take part in the programme on any ordinary terms, or talk about the issues. His stance is public denial, televised denunciation and a barrage of writs.

Uniquely, the law of libel places the burden of proof on the defendant. So Mr Aitken can claim, on any of the issues we reported, that we are wrong or have lied and that he has been defamed as a result. Our defence has to be that we are telling the truth.

In these circumstances the truth is known to only one party: the plaintiff, the subject

of the television programme or newspaper article. In this case Mr Aitken. Yet he cannot be compelled to lay out that truth or produce all that evidence. Instead the defendant has to prove everything. This is clearly unfair. It is certainly absurd. If the party claiming injury had to prove the truth he could generally do so very easily, and at the outset. Everyone would know where they stood: libel actions would either be settled then or go to court on a fair, open footing. Two years of stress, wasted effort, shadow-boxing and manoeuvre and hundreds of thousands of pounds could be saved at a stroke.

The first lesson of the Aitken case, therefore, is the urgent need for this fundamental reform of our libel laws: a reversal of the burden

of proof. That a liar can divert so much time and money and try to bounce an entire nation through the courts is scandalous enough. That he can be encouraged and enabled by the very way the law is framed must be a disgrace.

And *Aitken v Guardian Newspapers & Granada Television* offers a vivid second lesson. In the interests of everyone — except the crooked, the corrupt and the mendacious — we desperately need a "qualified privilege" defence to our reporting on the conduct of public officials. I say in the interests of everyone because qualified privilege broadly equates to a public "right to know".

Embedded for more than 30 years in US law and adopted in other countries, it would make a fundamental change to the way newspapers and broadcasters feel able or inclined to scrutinise those in public office, whether Cabinet Minister or policeman. To secure libel damages, a public official would have to prove malice. The plaintiff would have to show that the journalist, the publisher, the broadcaster was reckless as to whether or not what he was publishing was true.

The concept is shunned by our legislators — seemingly more through prejudice against the press than fear of the consequences — and regularly pushed out of court by the judges. If any case shows the need for a public right to know, it is Aitken.

The third lesson also means keeping the public on the inside of these issues: the jury. Uniquely, in trying a case brought by a public figure, we were denied a jury. Since this was always a case revolving around judging a man's truthfulness we were astonished — and scared yet more. No one is better equipped for the judgment than a jury. In such a case, trial by judge alone should never happen again.

At the same time that I argue for freedom of speech and better protection under the libel laws, broadcasters face the prospect of a whole new swathe of restrictions. One of our regulators, the Broadcasting Standards Commission, is promulgating a new code which would almost certainly make impossible the production of *Jonathan of Arabia*. Arguments about privacy and press abuse will also continue.

Alan Rusbridger has argued persuasively that none of these issues can be viewed alone. At a time of a new Government we should all be looking at how to take our whole approach to information — privacy, freedom of speech, data protection, libel — forward.

If we don't, we'll all continue to find it scary. The journalist will continue to carry a kind of Ancient Mariner's map, with whole territories of public life marked "Here be Dragons". If he wants to tackle dragons, let alone slay them, he'll need a mighty sword, endless determination, quite a lot of courage and big bags of gold.

The time for debate and reform is here. Any journalist who wants to resist that kind of wholesale appraisal of our restrictions, our conduct and our freedoms, step this way.

Ian McBride is managing editor, factual programmes, Granada Television.

## THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Snapper focuses on LA



Beirne: star photographer

DIANA, Princess of Wales, may be in trouble over her latest visit to the cinema, but at least she has one less paparazzo to worry about. Brendan Beirne, the award-winning photographer famously accosted by would-be hero Kevin Duggan when he tried to take a picture of Diana in the street, has packed up his long lenses and moved to LA. Beirne, a veteran who spent ten years photographing Diana, is now chasing the pouting lovelies of Hollywood instead. He has told friends he doesn't mind if he never takes another picture of Blue Eyes in his life.

Meanwhile there has been an interesting postscript to the notorious Earls Court scuffle. Beirne, who curiously took pity on Duggan when he was being chased by the media, lent him £50. The loan is still outstanding.

Good thinking

CONGRATULATIONS to Piers Morgan, Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, on the birth of his second son. By all accounts there has been

heated debate in the Morgan household over what name to give the bouncing baby boy. Morgan's wife Marion is said to have favoured Marc until it was realised this might look daft alongside their other son, Spencer. Finally the couple settled on Stanley. Colleagues, who are only just regaining their sense of humour over the "Achtung Surrender!" debacle during Euro 96, are merely grateful Morgan didn't opt for the name "Guten".

Morgan: name game

THE BUSINESS of selling shampoo and dog food has long been seen as high art by creative advertising types. This delusion has now been confirmed by the inclusion of a "Most Popular Ad" category in this year's National Television Awards. The prospect of sharing a stage with a worn-out collection of sitcom actors and soap stars has sent advertising executives hysterically scrambling for their Pson organisers to clear a date for the October award ceremony. With the voting period only a fortnight away agencies are mounting an Oscar-style campaign to promote their entries, including re-scheduling some adverts for maximum impact.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



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And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us — any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans



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27

# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
The plan to put Brighton's Ferret to work  
**PAGE 31**



**HOMES**  
New dream home that turned into a nightmare  
**PAGE 43**



**SPORT**  
Reports from all 16 NatWest Trophy games  
**PAGES 45-52**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
**PAGES 50, 51**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 1997

## CPS takes on criminal case against Regan

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

THE Crown Prosecution Service has taken over private criminal proceedings started by the Co-operative Wholesale Society against Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur who led a failed takeover bid for the Co-op.

The CPS is also taking over the prosecution of David Lyons, Mr Regan's adviser, and Allan Green, the former Co-op manager. The Co-op said the CPS had asked the police to make further investigations.

Separately, Hambros Bank is coming under scrutiny by the Bank of England over its role as adviser to Mr Regan and Lanica Trust, his investment vehicle, during the Co-op bid.

The Times has learnt that Norton Rose, the law firm asked by Hambros to conduct an independent inquiry into

the Co-op bid, has so far failed to interview Mr Regan. Mr Lyons and Mr Green, Nor. it appears, have CWS directors been asked to give their version of events.

If the Bank of England is dissatisfied with the Hambros report, which is being conducted by James Bagge, a partner and specialist in City regulation at Norton Rose, it can insist on a second — and more wide-ranging — inquiry that would interview all the key players on both sides of the failed Co-op bid.

The Hambros report into the Co-op affair will be the first test of the Bank's role as a banking watchdog since the Government announced that it was passing the job to a new super regulator staffed with the same personnel. A second

inquiry would also be a serious embarrassment to Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive of Hambros, who is also a member of the Court of the Bank of England.

Copies of the Norton Rose inquiry will be sent immediately to the Bank and the Securities and Futures Authority, the regulator for brokers and futures dealers. At least six Hambros staff who worked on the Co-op bid are authorised to conduct business by the SFA, which could even order its own investigation depending on the findings in the report.

Hambros was hired by Mr Regan as the merchant banker to advise on a bid for the Co-op using Galileo, a purpose-built vehicle. Certain key documents were alleged to have been stolen from the CWS during the course of the bid. These were then circulated widely among a large number of London investment banks by Hambros. When the estimated £1.1 billion bid was stopped by the courts at the end of April, Hambros, together with Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's legal adviser, publicly apologised to the CWS and paid over a reputed £1 million. To date the Co-op affair has cost Hambros an estimated £5 million.

## GEC's defence arm looks for merger partners

From Oliver August in Brussels

GEC's defence arm is looking for merger or alliance partners and is particularly interested in a foreign link-up. Sir Geoffrey Pattie, chairman of GEC Marconi, said yesterday.

George Simpson, GEC chief executive, is to announce his reorganisation plans early next month.

Addressing a defence industry conference in Brussels yesterday, Sir Geoffrey praised the benefits of cross-border mergers.

Sir Geoffrey said: "If the shareholders are better served by an alliance or merger between GEC Marconi and whoever then they will vote for it."

But he seemed to rule out a merger of GEC and British Aerospace. He said: "What I'm talking about are horizontal mergers. I haven't been very impressed by the concept of national champions, as in Germany."

Speculation has been rife whether Mr Simpson will consider loosening his grip on Marconi. He is scheduled to outline his plans on July 8 after the annual announcement of results.

Charles Armitage, an analyst at Lehman Brothers, said this month: "We do not expect GEC to joint venture the whole of Marconi as this would mean that the three core businesses of GEC, power generation, telecoms and defence, would all be joint ventures and GEC would have increasingly less control over all its key assets."

Sir Geoffrey, a former Conservative Defence Minister, called for the active support of the British Government and its European

partners in the consolidation process. Governments would have to relax monopoly rules and accept the loss of some control over defence manufacturers. He said: "Governments have to be ready to accept the consequences of consolidation, or the defence industry will decline even more spectacularly."

Across Europe, the number of defence jobs shrunk from 1.2 million to 600,000 over the last decade.

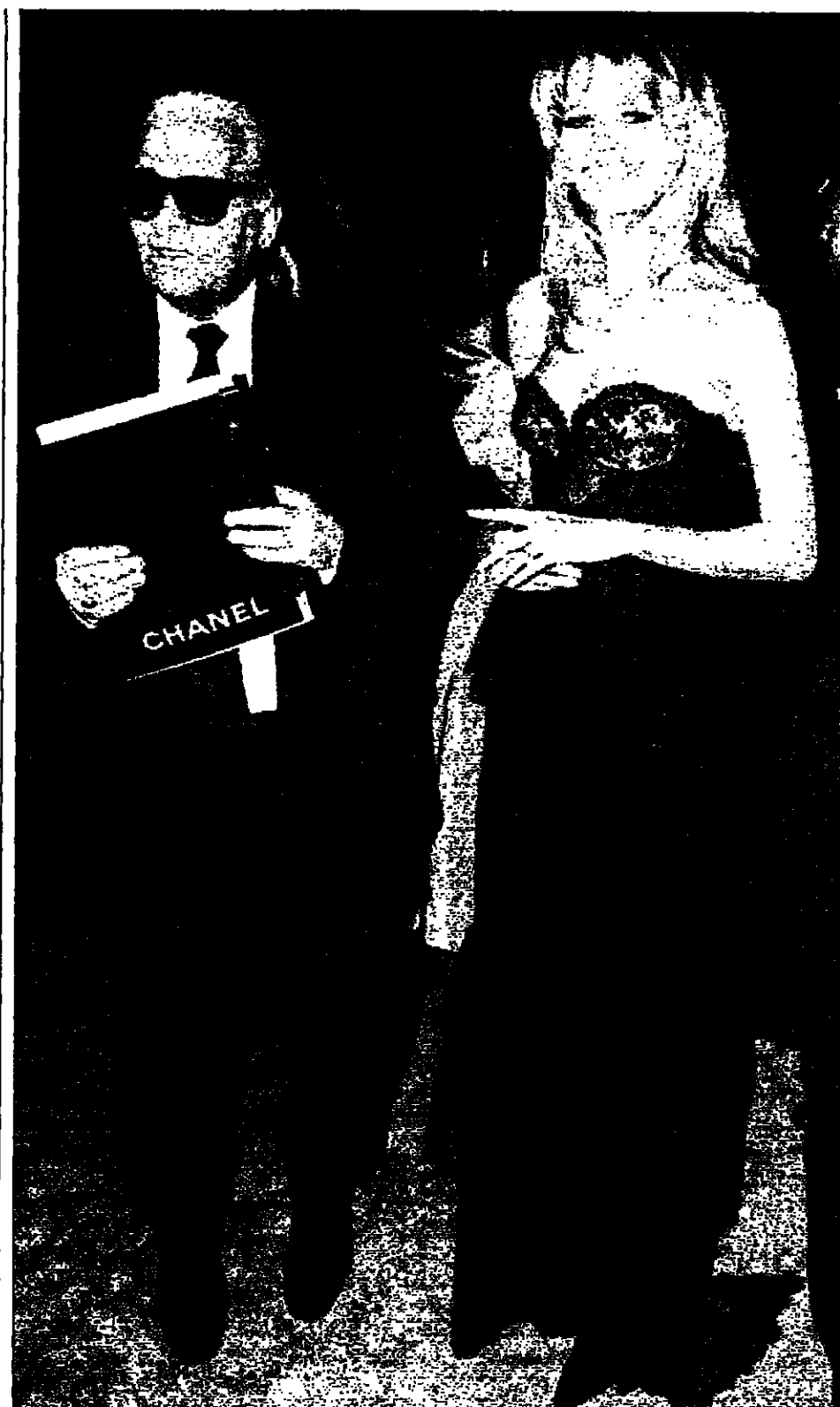
John Howe, deputy chief of defence procurement support at the Ministry of Defence, agreed with Sir Geoffrey.

He said: "The situation is extremely urgent. The Labour Government doesn't want the defence industry to disappear."

"But whether we would actually help to bring about a merger between GEC and British Aerospace or others to the disadvantage of excluded companies has to be decided in the defence review."



Simpson: plans for revamp



Fashion icons: Claudia Schiffer with Karl Lagerfeld, who requested the split from Vendôme

## End of season for Lagerfeld association with Vendôme

By Dominic Walsh

VENDÔME, the luxury goods group behind brands such as Dunhill and Cartier, has ended its five-year relationship with Karl Lagerfeld, the fashion designer.

The company, which in April hired Stella McCartney to replace Herr Lagerfeld as chief designer to its Chloé ready-to-wear clothing range, has sold the rights to the Karl Lagerfeld trademark back to the designer.

Lord Douro, deputy chairman, said the shedding of the brand had been at Herr Lagerfeld's request and "entirely amicable". He would not be drawn on the sale price, but said: "It was very small in relation to the group. There will be no significant effect on the results in the current year as a result of this agreement."

News of the split came as Vendôme, which is 70 per cent owned by the South African-controlled Richemont Securities, reported an 8.1 per cent rise in profits before tax to SF510 million in the year to March 31 on turnover up 11.7 per cent to SF3 billion.

However, the strength of the pound meant that in

sterling terms pre-tax profits dipped 4 per cent to £247.5 million on turnover marginally lower at £1.46 billion.

The first half was hit by lower spending in the Far Eastern market, but the second half saw turnover up almost 20 per cent and operating profits up 17.5 per cent.

The company's shops accounted for 45 per cent of group sales, compared to 30 per cent five years ago.

The board recommended a final dividend of SF0.2, giving a total of SF0.295, a rise of 22.9 per cent.

touching DM2.88 before falling back to close at DM2.8717 from DM2.8673. Sterling made small gains against the dollar, rising from \$1.6647 to \$1.6658, while the trade weighted index finished up 0.1 at 101.6, a new five-year record.

The stock market also bounced back after six consecutive falls with the FTSE 100 closing up 20.5 points at 4,596.3. The London market was reassured overnight by comments from Japan that it did not intend to

## Oil firms slip into £110m losses

By Our Industrial Staff

BRITAIN'S oil companies lost a collective £110 million in 1996 on gross sales of £41 billion in the fierce forecast war. They had managed to scrape together a pre-tax profit of £94 million in 1995, the Petroleum Industry Association said.

Industry specialists blamed the loss on tight retail margins, caused by competition with the supermarkets, and overcapacity among refiners. The trends are expected to continue this year and to lead to further consolidation among the petrol marketing operations of the oil giants.

Michael Frend, director-general of the Petroleum Industry Association, said that almost 10 per cent of all British filling stations closed in 1996.

For 1997 he predicted: "More mergers, more alliances and more refinery closures. The oil companies do expect 1997 to be a tough year." British pump prices have remained among the lowest in Europe after Esso Petroleum launched its Price-watch campaign in early 1996, promising to match its lowest-priced competitors — supermarkets near the Esso sites that had started selling cheap petrol to attract customers.

The 13 members of the Petrol Industry Association, which excludes the independents and supermarkets, account for 85 per cent of the sales volume in Britain.

Oil prices fell again yesterday after Iraq announced it expected to resume exports under the United Nations oil-for-food pact within ten days. North Sea Brent crude fell 25 cents to \$17.75 a barrel.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4596.3	(+20.5)
Nikkei	2182.6	(+5.81)
Dow Jones	7651.08	(+46.82)
S&P Composite	883.38	(+4.76)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	99 1/8%	(99 1/8%)
Yield	6.69%	(6.70%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
12-mth interbank	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)
STERLING		
New York	1.6653	(1.6717)
London	1.6680	(1.6643)
Frankfurt	5.6285	(5.7920)
Paris	5.6971	(5.6662)
Switzerland	2.2947	(2.3870)
Yen	191.34	(192.18)
S index	101.6	(101.5)
DOLLAR		
London	1.7258	(1.7175)
Frankfurt	5.6285	(5.7920)
Paris	5.6971	(5.6662)
Switzerland	2.2947	(2.3870)
Yen	114.79	(114.74)
S index	102.6	(102.7)
Tokyo close Yen	114.55	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.95	(\$18.10)
GOLD		
London close	\$338.15	(\$338.40)

**Anger at Sears**  
Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, came under attack from shareholders who demanded an explanation for the £463,000 payoff given to Liam Strong, the former chief executive. Sir Bob, who relieved Mr Strong of his duties in April, was accused of providing directors with "contracts that reward failure". Page 28

## Digital-TV licence awards lift shares

By Eric Reguly

SHARES of Carlton and Granada, the two largest commercial broadcasters, surged yesterday after the Independent Television Commission awarded them licences to launch digital terrestrial TV (DTT), capable of delivering 20 channels, next year.

British Digital Broadcasting, the DTT company owned by Carlton and Granada, believes DTT will appeal to those who do not subscribe to satellite or cable TV.

Carlton rose 8 1/2p to 525p, while Granada finished at 854 1/2p, up 19 1/2p. Shares of BSkyB, the satellite broadcast-

er, continued their decline, closing at 467 1/2p, down 19p. The ITC awarded the digital licences to British Digital Broadcasting on the condition that BSkyB, a founding partner that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, sell its one-third equity stake in the group.

Analysts think BSkyB's fall may be overdue. They note that BSkyB will still supply programming, but will bear none of DTT's start-up costs, estimated at £300 million.

End contract call, page 28  
Tempus, page 30

## Tax rise forecast as pound hits post-ERM high

By Alasdair Murray

THE Chancellor will use the Budget to phase out mortgage interest rate relief (MIRAS) and cut advance corporation tax, a leading economics group forecasts today.

The Ernst and Young ITEM Club, which uses the Treasury's economic model as the basis for predictions, believes Gordon Brown will make the tax rises to prevent interest rates going above a peak of 7.25 per cent. Economists forecast that, unless there are substantial tax rises in the Budget, the Bank of England will raise interest rates as high as 9 per cent by the end of next year. The ITEM Club report provides some relief to Britain's exporters, who have struggled under the burden of the strong pound. The report argues that the pound is near its peaks and sterling will soon fall back towards DM2.63.

The pound yesterday hit another post-ERM high against the mark,

touching DM2.88 before falling back to close at DM2.8717 from DM2.8673. Sterling made small gains against the dollar, rising from \$1.6647 to \$1.6658, while the trade weighted index finished up 0.1 at 101.6, a new five-year record.

The stock market also bounced back after six consecutive falls with the FTSE 100 closing up 20.5 points at 4,596.3. The London market was reassured overnight by comments from Japan that it did not intend to

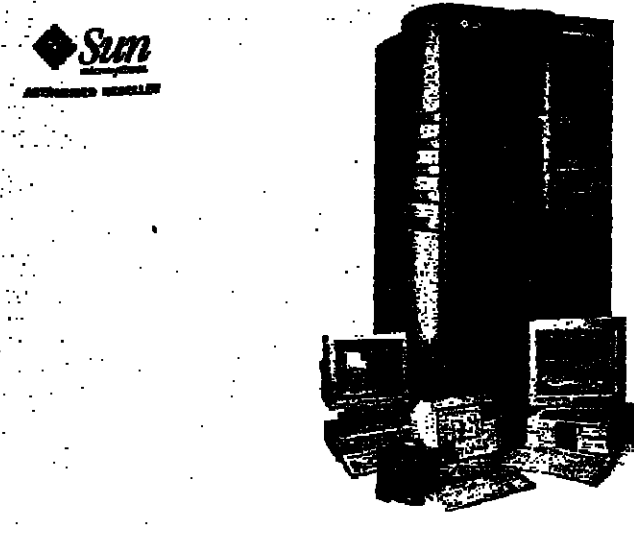
sell out of US government bonds. On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average was up 32.57 at 7,636.83 at midday.

The ITEM Club report forecasts that GDP growth will peak this year at 3.2 per cent but decelerate rapidly to 2.5 per cent next year as interest rate and tax rises begin to bite. Inflation will remain below 3 per cent for the rest of this year but climb to 3.1 per cent next year. Government borrowing will also undershoot this

year at £15.1 billion, compared with Treasury forecasts of £19 billion, and fall to £9.4 billion next year.

Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, also today warns the Government, in a paper presented to the Economic and Social Research Council, that it will have to accept a further shift to private funding for health and education in order to stick to its tough spending plans.

Commentary, page 29



**Morse.**  
Computer Systems for the Enterprise.

## Chloride disposes of distributor

Chloride, the emergency power supply specialist, has sold the distribution arm of its intruder alarm division for £1.3 million.

The company, which last year sold its last battery business, will keep £100,000 of profit on the deal.

Chloride made an expected pre-tax profit of £6.94 million (£5.99 million) for the year to March 31, after a £3.24 million gain from the closure of its pension fund. Earnings per share were 1.14p (2.19p). The dividend rises to 0.65p (0.45p) with a final 0.47p due on August 22.

## Vero warning

Shares in Vero Group fell to 99½p, from 121½p, after the maker of metal housings for electronics, said trading had weakened in key markets. First-half sales are likely to be about £56 million, similar to the 1996 first half, and profits are expected to be less than the £7.4 million seen then. Vero said the second half of 1997 is expected to be better.

## Water firm up

East Surrey Holdings, the water company, saw benefits of merging with Sutton District Water, with a 22 per cent rise, to £18.4 million, in pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 on sales up 2.4 per cent, to £48.1 million. A 7.2p final dividend makes 10.8p, up 16 per cent.

## Property hope

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors expects commercial property values to rise 7 per cent this year and 6 per cent next. Graham Chase, its commercial property spokesman, said: "After several false dawns, the industry is set to see a sustained recovery on... a strengthening and, more importantly, stable economy."

## Cooper hit

Frederick Cooper, the architectural hardware company, says it expects a substantial fall in profits this year, prompting a cut in the final dividend. Its shares fell 1½p, to 23½p, their lowest since 1993.



Tim How, chief executive of Majestic Wine, estimates that the still wine market is growing at 8 per cent a year

## Majestic uncorks 60% leap

MAJESTIC WINE, the wine warehouse chain, is enjoying buoyant like-for-like sales, thanks to strong growth in the market and its customers' willingness to pay more for better wines (Paul Durman writes).

In the first ten weeks of its new financial year, Majestic's sales grew 21.3 per cent, with a like-for-like improvement of 14.5 per cent. In the year ended March 31, sales rose nearly a quarter to £49.8 million. Pre-tax profits, before a £547,000 property writedown, rose 60 per cent to £1.98 million.

Tim How, chief executive, estimates that the still wine market is growing at 8 per cent a year, with the average purchase now more than £90.

The company, which joined the Alternative Investment Market last November, will pay a first dividend, of 3.5p a share, on August 8.

# Shareholders accuse Sears of 'contracts that reward failure'

By FRASER NELSON

SIR BOB REID, chairman of Sears, yesterday came under fierce attack from shareholders who demanded an explanation for the £463,000 payoff it gave to Liam Strong, its failed chief executive.

At a stormy annual meeting in London, Sir Bob, who relieved Mr Strong of his duties in April, was accused of providing his directors with "contracts that reward failure".

Sir Bob said the company was powerless to avoid giving Mr Strong the payout which, he said, was part of a contract signed five years ago under stiff competition for directors.

He said: "It's not a white-wash: it's a market. If you were going to buy Cantoria from Manchester United, you would not pay peanuts."

Shareholders, who have

seen the value of their investment plunge by 32 per cent in the last year, were unsatisfied with the response. One warned the board that their "jackets are on a shaky hanger".

The meeting came as the company admitted its like-for-like sales growth had halved to 2.5 per cent from 5.3 per cent in the first quarter, in spite of a 6 per cent growth from

Selfridges, the London-based department store.

Analysts wrote down year-end forecasts to profits of £54 million from £63 million, against a £107 million loss last time. The disappointing sales figures fuelled the anger at the meeting, as the board came under attack for everything from their contracts to their allowance for a 35 per cent discount at Selfridges. Sir Bob

said the benefits were in line with packages offered by other companies — but the problem, said one shareholder, is that "other companies do very well and you don't".

His attempt to defend Mr Strong also backfired when he pointed out that British Airways had "gone from strength to strength" after Mr Strong resigned as operations director. This was met with raucous laughter and cries of "I wonder why?" and "That's our point exactly". One shareholder suggested to Sir Bob that he asks British Airways for a cash contribution in gratitude for Mr Strong's departure.

Every director was re-elected, although there was stiff opposition to the appointment of Lord Tebbit, the former Cabinet minister. After a second count, he was re-elected with 66 per cent of the vote.

The shares closed up ½p at 70p, after it emerged that PDM, the institutional shareholder, had raised its holding in Sears from 14.4 per cent to 15.4 per cent.

Comment, page 29

## Leaver seeks end to pay-view deal

By JASON NISSE

PETER LEAVER QC, the newly appointed chief executive of the FA Premier League, is to press for an early end to the £670 million contract between BSkyB and the top flight of British football so that pay-per-view television of the sport can be introduced in two years' time.

Mr Leaver will put the Premier League's case at a meeting next week with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent

owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. The meeting is expected to be attended by Mark Booth, BSkyB's chief executive designate, and Elizabeth Murdoch, the general manager.

The 20 clubs in the Premier League told Mr Leaver at their summer meeting earlier this month that they do not want an early introduction of pay-per-view in the 1998-99 season, a proposal which was put

forward by Leeds United and enthusiastically backed by BSkyB.

Instead, they want to use the break clause inserted in the TV deal agreed a year ago, allowing the BSkyB contract to be terminated so pay-per-view can be brought in at the start of the 1999-2000 season.

It was thought that any pay-per-view deal would be struck with BSkyB, which has enjoyed success with pay-per-

view boxing. However, after a feasibility study the clubs are now pressing to retain the copyright of the matches and run their own TV service. This would enable them to sell the TV packages to whichever broadcaster pays most.

Clubs such as Arsenal, Aston Villa and Newcastle United are concerned about the poor performance of pay-per-view when it was introduced in Italy and France last season.

## Nationwide about-turn by Hardern

By NATAN YATER AND ANNE ASHWORTH

MICHAEL HARDERN, the dissident standing for the Nationwide board, may once more be in favour of conversion and windfall payouts.

Last week, Mr Hardern, a freelance butler, announced that he wished the Nationwide to remain a mutual. Mr Hardern now says that he had adopted a "pro-mutuality stance as a tactic".

Mr Hardern appears to have been influenced by the other four dissident members, also standing for the board, who have reaffirmed their wish to force the Nationwide to become a bank.

Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, described Mr Hardern's latest change of heart as "frivolous". Conversion windfall complaints accounted for more than 25 per cent of the Building Societies Ombudsman's post-bag. In his report, published yesterday, Brian Murphy said that he could not intervene, as his jurisdiction did not cover membership rights.

## Eurotunnel sets day for debt vote

By FRASER NELSON

EUROTUNNEL, the debt-laden operator of the Channel Tunnel, has named July 10 as the date when it will seek shareholder approval for the restructuring agreement that it has provisionally struck with its banks.

Patrick Ponsolle, chairman, said that the tunnel is now attracting record levels of traffic. More than 1,000 lorries a day are now using its Le Shuttle service. He added that interest charges, which have wiped out any trading profit the company makes, will, over the next seven years, be nearly 40 per cent lower than last year. M. Ponsolle warned shareholders not to underestimate the value of the concessions obtained from the banks.

Failure to approve the debt restructuring plan, he said, would most likely take the group into insolvency. "It is now or never," he said. "A failure to approve the plan risks loss of everything."

Eurotunnel shares eased 1p, to 60½p.

## George admits to EMU 'nerves'

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EDDIE GEORGE admitted yesterday to being "frankly nervous" about launching the single currency during a period of high unemployment.

The Governor of the Bank of England, speaking at City University Business School, gave warning that the high level of unemployment in Europe could undermine political support for the stability policies needed to ensure that the euro works.

The European Central Bank could quickly become viewed as partly responsible for the high levels of unemployment. "Its job would be enormously more difficult if its attempts to maintain stability came to be seen — however mistakenly — as an obstacle to the end-objectives of economic policy, particularly increasing unem-

ployment." He suggested that there were some signs in the markets that this problem was beginning to harm EMU. "It may be for this reason that foreign exchange markets are implying that they expect relative euro weakness," he said.

Mr George also expressed concern over the "real risks" in proceeding with EMU when countries were starting from different economic positions. He pointed to the cyclical differences between the UK and many European economies with domestic demand accelerating close to an unsustainable rate in Britain, while in Europe demand remains relatively subdued.

But Mr George still saw real economic advantages in exchange rate certainty across the single market area.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Contract incentives for caring firms

THE Government is considering giving preference in awarding official contracts to companies that meet recognised standards in the way they treat their employees. Companies meeting specific standards of employee training and development could win a high proportion of government contracts worth billions of pounds.

Government consideration of the idea comes as ministers make a new move today between business and Labour in government. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and David Blunkett, the Employment and Education Secretary, will meet leaders of key companies, hoping to win their practical support for the welfare-to-work programme. They will look for companies to commit themselves to the programme's New Deal jobs schemes for the young and long-term unemployed.

Darker side, page 31

## UTA factory to close

A FACTORY in Londonderry is set to close with the loss of 600 jobs. United Technology Automotive, which makes electrical wiring systems for cars, is the only big employer in the city's Creggan and Bogside area. The factory, where at one stage more than 1,100 people worked, has been in trouble for some time, and has seen a series of layoffs. Business leaders in the city, where the rate of unemployment in some parts is more than 50 per cent, were stunned by the decision of UTA, which numbers Ford and Jaguar among its customers.

## NU cheques in the post

SOME Norwich Union investors were still waiting for cheques and share certificates yesterday, eight days after it floated on the stock market. Because the shares were hugely oversubscribed, Norwich Union had to send refund cheques to many investors. Most were posted with nearly 800,000 share certificates and share account statements last Friday, although some went out on Saturday. Investors have been given warning by the insurer not to sell until they receive postal confirmation of their allocation.

## Ernest Green reversal

TRADING was halted in the shares of Ernest Green & Partners as a reverse takeover of the structural engineers was announced. Ernest Green is issuing 11.6 million shares to acquire White Young Consulting, another consulting engineer, for £7.2 million. Richard Brayson and John Purvis, directors of White Young, will take over as Ernest Green's chief executive and managing director respectively. After the takeover White Young's investors will control 60 per cent of the issued capital of Ernest Green.

## Domino holds steady

DOMINO PRINTING SCIENCES returned pre-tax profits little changed at £4.1 million in the half-year to April 30, compared with £4 million in the first half of the previous year. Sales rose to £55.3 million, from £51.6 million. The company said improvements in Britain and America offset underperformance in continental Europe. Results were adversely affected by the strength of sterling. The interim dividend is increased to 4.4p a share, from 4p, payable from earnings that rose to 10p a share, from 8.6p.

## Jobs boost at Hyder

HYDER, the Welsh multi-utility, is to recruit 200 staff to sell gas when the competitive market opens in Wales. Swalec Gas, its new gas company, aims to sign up about 800,000 domestic gas customers, promising significant cuts in annual gas bills. Competition in gas is scheduled to be implemented in Wales next year when Centrica, the former supply side of British Gas, faces competition from rival suppliers. Hyder, Wales's biggest company, already employs 9,000 people in its water, electricity and engineering business.

## Halifax rates to rise

HALIFAX savers will see their interest rates rise on July 1 but the increases still lag the competition. Savings rates are rising because the base rate and mortgage rate changes this month. A balance of £2,500 plus in a Halifax Liquid Gold account will earn 3.45 per cent, an increase of 0.45 per cent, compared with rates of as high as 6.15 per cent on some building societies. Sainsbury's Bank now pays 6.15 per cent on deposits of as little as £1. The Halifax, which became a bank in June, yesterday joined the FTSE 100 index of leading shares.

## GMB to vote on strikes

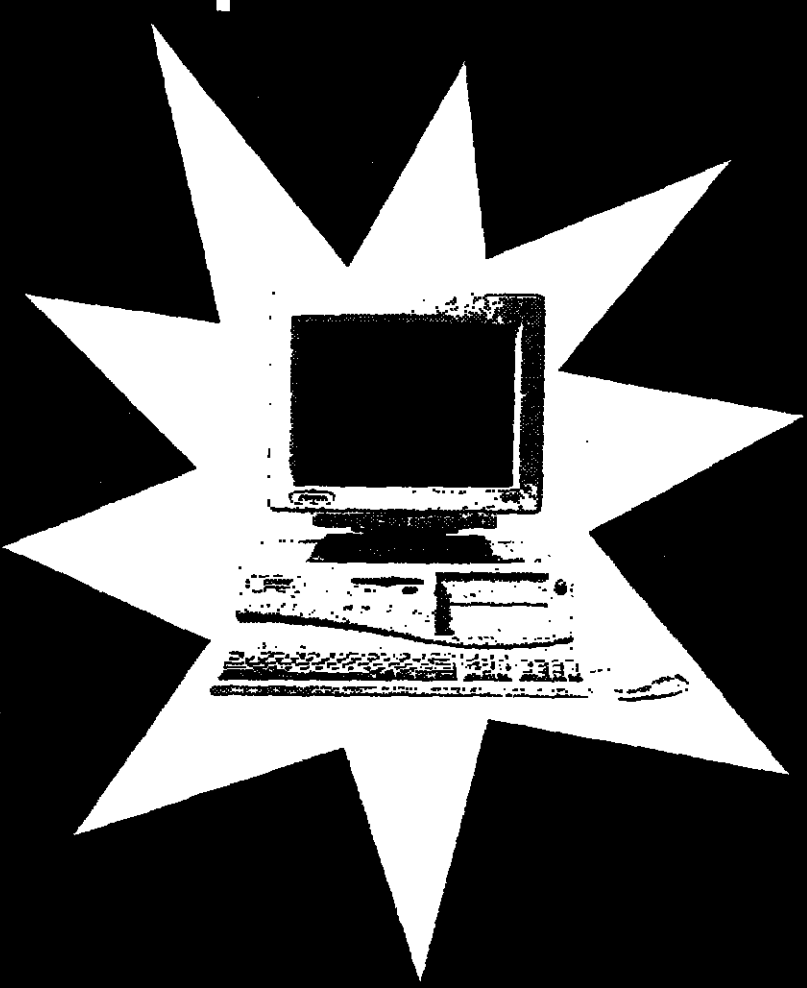
BUILDING WORKERS will soon vote on a strike action that could halt projects including the Millennium Dome site at Greenwich and the extension to Manchester Airport. The GMB general union is to ballot members on industrial action over pay after talks with employers failed last month. If action goes ahead it will be the first national strike for 25 years. Allan Black, GMB national officer, said: "Any industrial action will be targeted at capital infrastructure projects." Strikes by workers in the GMB would take place during the summer.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.91	2.15	Malta	0.670	0.614
Austria Sch	21.10	19.55	Netherlands Gld	3.408	3.129
Belgium Fr	62.15	57.51	New Zealand \$	2.58	2.38
Canada \$	2.429	2.254	Norway Kr	12.81	11.73
Cyprus Cyp	0.890	0.825	Portugal Esc	301.00	280.50
Denmark Kr	11.48	10.64	S Africa Rd	8.18	7.28
Finland Mk	9.10	8.40	Spain Ptas	252.50	235.00
France Fr	10.11	9.38	Sweden Kr	13.58	12.56
Germany Dm	3.02	2.79	Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Greece Dr	4.77	4.40	Turkey Lira	253.81	234.788
Hong Kong \$	13.62	12.40	USA \$	1.782	1.628
Iceland	127	107			
Ireland Pn	1.15	1.07			
Italy Lit	6.15	5.50			
Italy Lit	2.85	2.745			
Japan Yen	202.20	188.80			

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclay Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Deskpromotion



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Halma shares fall 14%

Mid Oct way a



# Ross gets by on family allowance



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

James Ross may be regretting the day that he decided that the family-owned Littlewoods group would provide a comfortable berth after the acrimonious tussles he had to endure at Cable & Wireless.

Trying to please shareholders who want to combine making a better return on their investment with the salvation of their social consciences is putting Mr Ross in an almost impossible position. The two prongs of the strategy he evolved to please his new masters now both seem in danger of collapsing.

His efforts to sell the chain stores are just days away from defeat. Kingfisher, which has for several weeks been the only contender for the deal, is growing increasingly frustrated and is on the verge of walking away from the negotiating table, this time for good.

Price is not the sticking point so much as some Littlewoods family members' insistence that it would only sell to a single buyer and jobs within the group should be protected.

Kingfisher thought it had come close to finding a formula that would keep the family happy, and since signing a confidentiality agreement with the group has been trying to sort out the details. Tesco has been formally lined up to take a parcel of around 20 stores. Kingfisher's Woolworth chain would have the pick of the rest, and a smaller Littlewoods chain would remain

in business. But it seems unlikely that Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy has any wish to be lumbered for longer than necessary with running a second-rate chain store business that barely manages to squeeze out a profit. He has surely not been through the discomfort of bringing Kingfisher back up to scratch, after a lapse which cost him the chairman's job, only to take on that task. More likely, he envisaged hanging on to the Littlewoods business for the shortest time necessary to enable the family to say they had kept their word. Then he would break it up.

James Ross might have been amenable to such a pragmatic solution but, it seems, some members of the Littlewoods family are not. In which case it will leave poor Mr Ross trying to find a recipe for revitalising the near friendless chain.

And his problems may not end there. His plan for building up the group's mail order business through the acquisition of Freemans is now being scrutinised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. By the tenor of its questions, it looks as if the commission is concentrating its probe on the issue of credit availability for the lower income

groups, traditionally the customers of mail order firms.

On that basis, the Commission could take the view that the merger would reduce competition and advise Margaret Beckett to veto it.

Sears shareholders must by now be primed for such a kick in the teeth. Those who turned up for the annual meeting yesterday learned that hapless chief executive, Liam Strong, may have departed but his legacy lives on.

## Pension pariahs face wrath of Liddell

It's easy to sound tough when you're Scots and the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has been making the best of her natural advantage. However, Helen Liddell's censorious words for the most recalcitrant pension companies will be an empty threat, unless she also shows that her bite is as sharp as

her Lanarkshire bark. Yesterday, Mrs Liddell refused to say how she would penalise the companies with the worst record of settling pension compensation cases. No amount of pleading would make her reveal her full strategy.

Her silence could be read in two ways: either Mrs Liddell has unspeakable punishments in store for offenders, or she understands that using the sanctions open to her would not be feasible. This might explain why she did not threaten Legal & General and Sedgwick with the temporary removal of their authorisation to do business, as allowed by the provisions of the Financial Services Act.

The busy Mrs Liddell has the right to expect that the regulators will do some of her dirty work for her. Their conduct, to date, does not inspire any degree of confidence. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has, so far, failed to make a painful example of any

firm dilatory in clearing its liabilities.

Perhaps an organisation that has at its head the former boss of Legal & General is more prone to sympathise with the industry than to reprimand those he regards as peers.

Less elevated members of staff should, however, be more prepared for plain-speaking and zero tolerance. Ambitious to be reemployed in the new super-SIB that will replace the current system of investor protection, they should now be anxious to show their mettle.

Since Mrs Liddell has chosen to be unspecific about the outcome for those who have transgressed, it is important that she maintains this air of silent menace.

The monthly pensions review progress reports must not become routine but another opportunity to make insurance company chief executives wish that they had chosen any other

career. Discreet mentions of the stakeholder pension, Labour's proposed solution to the nation's poor level of retirement saving, should also prove useful in this process.

Exclusion from sales of the stakeholder pension is the final card that Mrs Liddell can play. She must show the life industry that she will use it without fear.

## Time up for carry on at the Corporation

It is tempting to see the archaic rituals of City politics as some quaint survivor from another age, a gaudy electoral coelacanth that adds to the diversity and gaiety of life in the Square Mile but does no real harm. It is all terribly self-important. But if grown men want to parade around in ostrich feathers, set themselves up as the Worshipful Company of Hat Pin Makers or argue over who is entitled to drive sheep across Tower Bridge, who are we to stop them? There are some archaic rituals surviving at the other end of the Embankment at Westminster, but life has at least moved on there since the Reform Act. Consider a Parliament in

which one rank of members, once elected, could hang on indefinitely, but if someone chosen by the electorate was not to their taste, he or she could with impunity be denied a seat. Yet just such an undemocratic body has power over spending in the City and over the lives of the 10,000 or so who live within its bounds. Foreigners find it all rather amusing, until it dawns on them that the chap over there in the feathered tricorn might have some influence over whether their rubbish is collected — or what tax breaks their investment bank may be offered by central Government. The City Corporation accepts that change must come. Some Aldermen do not. The Government will get around to the matter. The Corporation had better have clear ideas by then on how reform can be achieved.

## Lead ITEM

THE pre-Budget barrage of speculation, leaks and special pleading has ensured that Gordon Brown's first Budget next week will retain some elements of surprise, either because of what it contains or what it omits. But if he is still pondering over the contents, he is likely to pay particular attention to today's forecast from ITEM, showing a winning combination of a phased out Miras and clawback of ACT with an interest rate ceiling of just 7.25 per cent.

## First Leisure suffers bingo setback

By DOMINIC WALSH

MICHAEL GRADE, the former Channel 4 head, faces a rough ride as executive chairman of First Leisure after the company yesterday reported a 5 per cent slide in interim pre-tax profits to £17.2 million, on the back of a disastrous performance from its bingo division. Shares in the company shed 20½p to 315½p, as analysts digested the implications of a 25 per cent drop in like-for-like sales in bingo and losses for the division of £1.3 million (£100,000 profit last time). Mr Grade said: "We got it wrong at the operational level, and underestimated the competitive challenge to our entering the market."

But Mr Grade said drastic action to remedy the situation was being taken.

A charge of £2.4 million will be taken against full-year figures as a result of board changes — both John Conlan, chief executive, and Nick Tamblyn, commercial director, left just after Mr Grade's arrival three weeks ago — and the restructuring of the bingo division. Severance payments for the two directors remain undisclosed. Some 15 managers from the bingo division have been replaced and three former executives from Rank,

a rival company, drafted in. Mr Grade rejected suggestions that he should sell off bingo, although he admitted he did not have "limitless patience". He added: "I don't believe for a moment that the British public has lost its appetite for bingo. It is the second-biggest leisure activity after angling in this country."

The division will benefit from a £100 million development programme across the company over two years, with six new-style bingo halls planned at £2.5 million each. Most of the money will go into the company's three other divisions — nightclubs and bars, sports and resorts — each of which achieved growth in both sales and profits, contributing to a 7 per cent rise in group turnover to £88.8 million in the six months to April 30.

Mr Grade dismissed suggestions that First Leisure's performance made it a takeover target for a company such as Rank Group. "Our independence is one of our great strengths and is jealously guarded."

Earnings per share were 7.24p (7.17p). The interim dividend is 2.64p (2.51p).

Tempos, page 30

## Halma shares fall 14%

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Halma, the safety and environmental technology group, fell more than 14 per cent yesterday after it returned annual profits that fell short of City expectations.

In the year to March 29 the company lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £37.1 million, a record. But the stock market had anticipated profits of about £40 million. The shares dropped 27½p to 162½p in response.

Operating profits from continuing operations were little changed at £33.87 million before a £3.2 million contribution from acquisitions. Turnover was £200 million, up from £173.6 million.

Apollo, the largest company in the group, was adversely affected by the strength of sterling.

Tempos, page 30

## Talks off at Country Casuals

By FRASER NELSON

COUNTRY CASUALS, the troubled clothing retailer that sold its two women's wear divisions last month, has broken off takeover talks with Mark Bunce, its former chief executive, because he failed to make a formal offer after three months.

Tom Adam, chairman, said the company was no longer prepared to wait for Mr Bunce's proposition and had formally ceased negotiations so it could return to normal business. He said: "The matter was in Mr Bunce's court. There was no argument about price because there was no price to argue about."

He added that the company had received a number of informal approaches from other potential bidders, but had yet to receive an offer.

The shares dropped 12p to 113½p.

## Mid Ocean bonanza on way at Brockbank

MARK BROCKBANK and 20 senior managers at Brockbank Group, the Lloyd's underwriter, stand to earn a paper profit of £23 million following a recommended cash offer from Mid Ocean, the US reinsurance specialist (Marianne Curphey writes).

Mid Ocean is bidding for the remaining 40 per cent of Brockbank it does not already own. The bid of 696p a share values Brockbank at £85.5 million. Mr Brockbank, chief executive, and other members

of the syndicate hold 27 per cent of the equity. Mr Brockbank's 22 per cent is worth about £19 million.

Brockbank executives will swap their holdings into restricted Mid Ocean ordinary shares, effectively locking them in for three years.

□ Masthead Insurance reported 1996 pre-tax profits of £8.8 million (£2.2 million). Earnings were 14.1p a share (3.4p). A final dividend of 10p, due August 29, makes a total of 12.7p (3.2p).

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

## Investors quickly regain composure after US blow

SHARE prices in London responded bravely to the overnight setback on Wall Street that saw the Dow Jones industrial average suffer its biggest one-day fall since Black Monday in October, 1987.

After a precautionary markdown that saw the FTSE 100 index extend the 250-point fall of the past week by almost 40 points, investors quickly regained their composure.

The sell-off in New York overnight centred on threats alleged to have been made by the Japanese to start selling US assets. But with the Japanese going to great lengths yesterday to diffuse the situation, financial markets quickly recovered. The index quickly moved into positive territory and closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 20.5 points at 4,596.3.

Once again it was the financial sector that held centre stage. Bid speculation continued to drive NatWest Group sharply higher, with the price ending up 4 1/2 p at 825p. Royal Bank of Scotland was another high-flyer, adding 15p at 548p after a report in *The Times* that it could soon find a bid from HSBC, up 34p at 515.62p. Abbey National, up at 802p, is also seen as a possible target for HSBC.

Other fast movers in the sector included Lloyds TSB, up 18p to 628p with 15.5 million shares traded. Standard Chartered, ahead 38p at 912 1/2 p, and Bank of Scotland, up 7p at 385p.

Cater Allen, the discount house, stood out with a rise of 15p at 557 1/2 p awaiting the outcome of bid talks. Speculators claim Abbey National is poised to bid more than £200 million, valuing the shares at about 630p each.

WH Smith continued to reel from this week's shock departure of Bill Cockburn, chief executive, midway through the group's overhaul. The shares finished 9p lower at 307 1/2 p. It stretches the loss on the week to 44p - its lowest for nine years. Meanwhile, Next rallied 18p to 700 1/2 p after bullish comments from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

A big buyer of Cable & Wireless caught traders, already short of stock, on the hop as the price surged 26 1/2 p to 585 1/2 p. Peter Cawdron, a director of Compass Group, took advantage of the fall in the company's share price.



Michael Grade, of First Leisure, saw the share price fall

down 22p at 680p, to top up his holding. He splashed out £3 million, picking up 450,000 shares at 680p. This increases his stake to 451,300 shares, or 0.14 per cent.

RMC Group fell 20p to 980p as SBC Warburg, the broker, reiterated recent cautious comments.

Halma suffered the biggest fall among the FTSE 250 companies with a loss of 26 1/2 p

to hit a new low of 162 1/2 p after full-year profits of £37.1 million came in below expectations. Credit Lyonnais Laing, which had been looking for profits of £41 million, says the shares are worth only 165p.

Brookbank, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, responded to news of a bid by Mid Ocean, the reinsurance specialist, with a leap of 130p at 672 1/2 p. Mid

Ocean is offering 696p a share for the outstanding 49 per cent of the company it does not already own. The deal values Brookbank at £85.5 million.

Shares of Ernest Green were suspended at 62 1/2 p while details of a merger with White Young Consultants are being concluded. The deal will value White Young at £7.2 million.

The shares of Floral Street, which is AIM listed, returned from suspension 35p lower at 212 1/2 p after it emerged that reverse takeover talks had been terminated. It is also taking a hit of £200,000 relating to proposed acquisitions.

Casuals was 12p lower at 113 1/2 p after takeover talks with Mark Buncie, its former chief executive, broke down. The group is pondering whether to pursue other informal bid approaches.

A warning about second-half trading prospects left First Leisure 21p down at 315p. The group, of which Michael Grade is executive chairman, said full-year figures would contain £2.4 million of restructuring charges. Profits in the first half were barely changed.

Whitbread, up 7p at 158p, is likely to benefit from greener Britain of Tony Blair. Its environmental arm has developed a system to reduce harmful emission on vehicles. Initial tests have proved encouraging.

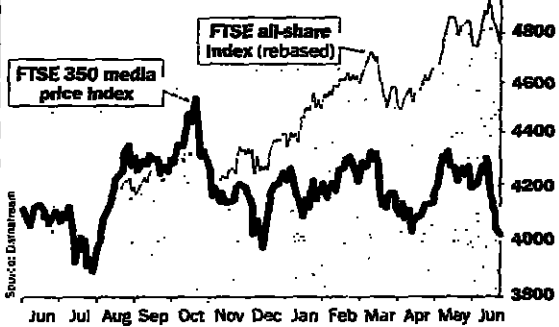
Shares of John Lusty returned from suspension 1p firmer at 9 1/2 p after the passing of a number of resolutions at Monday's extraordinary general meeting.

GILT-EDGED: Prices rallied from early losses to end with gains stretching to almost 1 1/2 p at the longer end as the yield curve flattened. Dealers expect today's auction of £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2003 to be fully subscribed.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt ended £1 1/2 better at £113 1/2 as the number of contracts returned to 82,000. In the long, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £1 1/2 at £108 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up a tick at £102 1/2.

NEW YORK: US stocks recovered some lost territory after the reassurances delivered by the Japanese, although the market's bounce was hampered by inflation fears. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 46.82 points at 7,651.08.

## FINE TUNING FOR THE FUTURE



FTSE 350 media price index and FTSE all-share index (rebased)

BSKYB, where News International, owner of *The Times*, holds a 40 per cent stake, ended a further 26 1/2 p off at 460p, stretching the loss of the past week to 135 1/2 p. It is being forced to sell its stake in British Digital Broadcasting for £75 million and was further undermined by claims that Premier League football clubs may go it alone and broadcast their own games. Carlton rose 9p to 525 1/2 p and Granada 17 1/2 p to 852 1/2 p on the news that BDB had been awarded the licence to run three digital terrestrial channels.

Lorna Tilbain, at Panmure Gordon, says: "This week's events have seen BSKYB's stranglehold on the television industry loosened. The shares look reasonably valued."

Neil Blackley at Merrill Lynch dissects: "The fall in the BSKYB share price is completely unjustified. Carlton looks fairly valued at these levels."

Both agree that BSKYB will continue to benefit as the main programme supplier to the digital terrestrial network. Tilbain has set a target price for Carlton of 575p a share.

## MAJOR INDICES

<b>New York (midday):</b>		
Dow Jones	7651.08	(+46.82)
S&P Composite	883.38	(+4.74)
<b>Tokyo:</b>		
Nikkei Average	20341.93	(+94.21)
<b>Hong Kong:</b>		
HSE Index	14892.06	(+130.27)
<b>Amsterdam:</b>		
AEX Index	816.06	(+0.52)
<b>Sydney:</b>		
ASX 200	2688.40	(+17.40)
<b>Frankfurt:</b>		
DAX	3755.62	(+1.10)
<b>Singapore:</b>		
SEAC	2041.38	(+6.59)
<b>Brussels:</b>		
General	1342.84	(+16.52)
<b>Paris:</b>		
CAC-40	2784.70	(+22.50)
<b>Zurich:</b>		
SKA Gen	1151.40	(+0.80)
<b>London:</b>		
FTSE 100	4596.3	(+20.5)
FTSE 250	4447.3	(+7.5)
FTSE 350	4226.3	(+7.3)
FTSE Europe 100	2478.8	(+10.8)
FTSE All-Share	2133.6	(+5.8)
FTSE Non Financials	2309.9	(+1.4)
FTSE Financials	123.36	(+0.04)
FTSE Govt Sec	96.26	(+0.23)
Berglins		
SEAQ Volume	876.1m	
US:	Dow Jones	7651.08 (+46.82)
	S&P 500	883.38 (+4.74)
	Nasdaq	2877.17 (+20.04)
Exchange Index		1016.16 (+7.0)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)	£/US\$	1.630
	£/DM	1.569
	£/Yen	156.9
	156.9 May 12594 Jan 1997-100	
	156.9 May 12594 Jan 1997-100	

## RECENT ISSUES

Aston Villa	83 1/2	+ 40
Cardiff City	80	+ 7
Sheff Wed	80	+ 7
Heart of Midlothian	110	+ 1
Highland Thistle	124	+ 1
Integrated As Mgmt	125	+ 1
Longbridge Int	117	+ 1
Norwich Union (280)	326	+ 1
Powdermill (280)	326	+ 1
Reaumur Merit	110	+ 1
Royalblue Group	306	+ 1
SBS Group	110	+ 1
Topps Tiles	112	+ 1
Versatile Group	3	+ 1

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark n/p (200)	20
Century Ind n/p (150)	15
Midland Hldgs n/p (1)	1
Waterfall Hld n/p (75)	75

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Nat West	825p (+4 1/2 p)
Midland	157p (+1 1/2 p)
Fort Pol	75p (+20p)
Lloyds TSB	628p (+18 1/2 p)
Next	700p (+1 1/2 p)
Ryl Bk Scot	589p (+15p)
Carpeitright	476p (+10p)
Halma	780p (+11p)
ICI	618p (+8 1/2 p)
SEAC	912p (+38 1/2 p)
Cable & Wire	585p (+26 1/2 p)
Telepac	265p (+7 1/2 p)
Cater Allen	557p (+15p)
GLS	682p (+15 1/2 p)
FALLS:	
Vero	99p (-22p)
City Casuals	113p (-12p)
UNO	262p (-23p)
First Leisure	315p (-21p)
Cohen (A)	305p (-20p)
First Plc	328p (-17p)
AEA Tech	435p (-17p)
Greencore	295p (-10p)
Compass Gp	680p (-22p)
Br Polythene	554p (-16p)
Chiroclonics	260p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

## TEMPUS Budget halts the bulls

THE bull market is beginning to look like a long distance runner approaching the finishing tape. Still upright, but gasping for breath, he occasionally stumbles over a tree root or slips on wet grass only to accelerate in spurts as he notices the runner behind him. In the case of the London stock market, investors have become so cavalier that meltdowns on Wall Street are now shrugged off like a summer shower. Yet, the finishing tape is beginning to look suspiciously like the July budget, an event which could shatter hopes.

Some of the rumours, such as 7 per cent stamp duty look too absurd, but a watershed measure, such as stamp duty doubled or tripled, would be significant. Taking into account transaction costs of almost 2 per cent property owners might see a 5 per cent fall in the value of their asset. The budget holds

more certain worries - the utility tax and a reduction in the dividend tax credit. Confident investors insist that these are already factored in to share prices but no one knows the impact of losing the tax credit.

Anyone still feeling the urge to buy should have a look at what is driving this market forward. The strong stocks have been remarkably defensive sectors such as blue chip banks and financial companies which have caused the FTSE 100 to race ahead of the Mid 250 stocks. The latter comprise more cyclical industries: companies that make things have not done well over the past year, crippled by a strong currency and a Chancellor who sees no need to offer them relief. This budget will offer them little relief: anyone heavily invested might consider a put option on the market.

## Halma

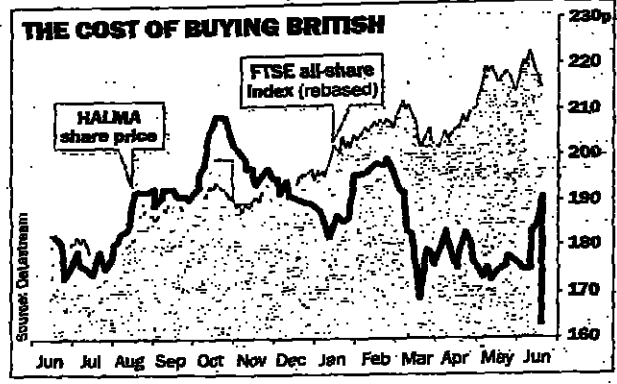
HAS Halma's locomotive run out of steam? Even yesterday the company was boasting that earnings per share had grown by an annual compound rate of 24 per cent since 1972, when the current management took control. Such statistics are not enough to silence those who see flat operating profits and wonder whether the acquisitive Halma has moved into lower gear.

A strike by lift technicians in New York had a disproportionate impact on profits, but the big headache is currency. The group lost £1 million from the strengthening pound. A third of its sales are exports from the UK, and hardest hit was Apollo, maker of commercial fire detection equipment. Halma insists that volumes were not hit, only revenues as power-

ful customers insisted that it maintain its dollar and mark prices. Halma reckons that new and lower-cost products will help to maintain margins, but it will have its work cut out if the pound continues to flirt with DM2.90.

This setback puts unusual pressure on Halma to deliver good earnings growth in the current year, and the

temptation will be to buy in profits. The company has net funds in the bank and generates more cash than it can use, but, with a return on capital of 40 per cent, its balance sheet looks inefficient. Halma is looking cheap after yesterday's slide, but if it fails to restore its growth rate, it could do worse than buy its shares.



THE COST OF BUYING BRITISH

## Digital TV

CARLTON and Granada see a huge market for digital television in terrestrial form (DTT). Three quarters of the population do not yet subscribe to satellite or cable TV. So, they argue, the market is enormous. Or is it?

The two ITV companies believe that households have resisted the cable and satellite multichannel offerings because of inertia: people cannot be bothered to buy a satellite dish or run a cable through the living room. DTT's advantages are defined in the negative: "No dish. No cable."

If this is the level of the market research they are in trouble. Could the non-believers have rejected multichannel TV simply because they do not want more than two BBC and three commercial channels? Moreover, if they suddenly want more channels, why choose DTT over satellite and cable? Currently, DTT can only offer some

30 channels against the several hundred shortly to arrive on digital satellite and cable. The latter two media will make near-video-on-demand possible, allowing couch potatoes to dispense with video rentals.

DTT could in the end make money for Granada and Carlton but the case has yet to be made and it is unlikely to be a goldmine. Satellite and cable still have the best claim for dominance.

## First Leisure

MICHAEL GRADE, trademark cigar in hand, appeared relaxed and confident yesterday but the story he had to tell failed to live up to the excitement his arrival at First Leisure caused at the beginning of the year.

Other bingo operators have overcome the effects of the National Lottery, but First Leisure's bingo division reported a horrendous 25 per cent dip in first-half like-for-like sales. Drastic surgery is

under way but investors would have preferred an early exit. Bingo - along with smaller businesses such as marinas and theatres (both joint ventures) - is probably a management distraction at a time when the core business is still in need of attention.

Instead, Mr Grade talked about new leisure concepts with the occasional acquisition for good measure. In other words, further diversification rather than the hoped-for concentration on the core business.

Investors should be grateful that he has no plans to plough their cash into TV or films. At current trading levels, the company should report a flat second half and it could be a while before Mr Grade does for First Leisure what he did for Channel 4. Existing shareholders will want to hang on for the trip but be prepared for a bumpy ride.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

## COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)		GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES	
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)		LIFE WHEAT (June 12)	
Jul	17.80 +0.05	Jul	76.30
Sep	17.80 +0.05	Sep	80.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	84.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	88.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	92.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	96.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	100.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	104.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	108.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	112.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	116.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	120.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	124.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	128.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	132.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	136.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	140.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	144.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	148.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	152.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	156.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	160.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	164.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	168.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	172.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	176.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	180.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	184.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	188.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	192.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	196.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	200.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	204.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	208.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	212.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	216.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	220.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	224.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	228.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	232.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	236.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	240.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	244.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	248.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	252.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	256.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	260.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	264.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	268.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	272.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	276.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	280.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	284.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	288.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	292.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	296.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	300.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	304.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	308.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	312.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	316.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	320.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	324.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	328.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	332.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	336.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	340.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	344.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	348.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	352.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	356.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	360.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	364.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	368.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	372.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	376.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	380.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	384.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	388.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	392.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	396.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	400.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	404.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	408.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	412.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	416.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	420.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	424.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	428.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	432.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	436.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	440.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	444.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	448.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	452.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	456.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	460.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	464.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	468.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	472.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	476.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	480.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	484.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	488.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	492.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	496.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	500.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	504.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	508.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	512.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	516.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	520.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	524.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	528.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	532.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	536.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	540.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	544.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	548.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	552.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	556.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	560.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	564.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	568.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	572.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	576.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	580.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	584.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	588.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	592.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	596.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	600.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	604.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	608.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	612.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	616.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	620.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	624.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	628.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	632.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	636.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	640.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	644.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	648.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	652.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	656.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	660.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	664.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	668.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	672.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	676.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	680.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	684.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	688.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	692.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	696.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	700.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	704.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	708.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	712.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	716.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	720.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	724.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	728.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	732.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	736.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	740.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	744.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	748.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	752.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	756.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	760.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	764.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	768.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	772.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	776.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	780.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	784.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	788.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	792.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	796.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	800.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	804.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	808.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	812.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	816.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	820.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	824.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	828.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	832.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	836.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	840.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	844.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	848.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	852.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	856.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	860.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	864.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	868.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	872.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	876.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	880.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	884.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	888.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	892.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	896.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	900.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	904.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	908.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	912.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	916.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	920.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	924.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	928.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	932.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	936.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	940.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	944.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	948.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	952.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	956.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	960.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	964.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	968.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	972.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	976.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	980.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	984.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	988.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	992.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	996.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1000.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1004.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1008.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1012.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1016.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1020.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1024.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1028.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1032.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1036.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1040.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1044.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1048.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1052.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1056.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1060.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1064.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1068.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1072.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1076.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1080.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1084.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1088.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1092.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1096.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1100.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1104.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1108.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1112.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1116.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1120.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1124.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1128.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1132.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1136.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1140.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1144.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1148.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1152.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1156.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1160.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1164.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1168.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1172.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1176.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1180.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1184.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1188.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1192.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1196.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1200.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1204.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1208.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1212.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1216.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1220.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1224.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1228.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1232.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1236.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1240.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1244.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1248.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1252.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1256.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1260.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1264.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1268.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1272.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1276.30
Oct	17.80 n/c	Oct	1280.30
Nov	17.80 n/c	Nov	1284.30
Dec	17.80 n/c	Dec	1288.30
Jan	17.80 n/c	Jan	1292.30
Feb	17.80 n/c	Feb	1296.30
Mar	17.80 n/c	Mar	1300.30
Apr	17.80 n/c	Apr	1304.30
May	17.80 n/c	May	1308.30
Jun	17.80 n/c	Jun	1312.30
Jul	17.80 n/c	Jul	1316.30
Aug	17.80 n/c	Aug	1320.30
Sep	17.80 n/c	Sep	1324.30
Oct	1		



# Brighton's plight highlights darker side of buoyant Britain

**Philip Bassett**  
on the tough  
task ahead  
for Labour's  
employment  
programme

**F**erret belies his nickname. A huge man, bronzed, naked to the waist, a giant eagle tattooed across his back, bandana, military fatigues, combat boots, bushy moustache, unshaven: he is a homeless Rambo, an unemployed beggar. "I don't work," he says. "But I don't do welfare either."

Lee, sitting with him, could hardly be more different. Slight, nervous, gaunt, he has held kitchen porter jobs but, like many people in this day centre for the homeless and unemployed in Brighton, he has a history of mental illness. "Yep, I'd like a job again," he says, but without much conviction or hope.

Around 30 unemployed men sip tea, filling in the daylight hours, as far from the activity of Downing Street as seems possible. Yet today they will be connected. At a breakfast meeting, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, will ask business executives to help with their welfare-to-work programme, the centrepiece of next week's Budget. Help in the most direct way: by offering jobs.

The Budget's key measure will be a windfall tax on privatised utilities, raising up to £5 billion. It is intended to fund a programme to get 250,000 unemployed young people, and an unspecified number of the long-term unemployed, into jobs.

"I think the welfare-to-work programme will be a great help," says Jenny Backwell. She hopes so, at least. She runs the First Base day centre in Brighton. Just round the corner from the grunting shelves of the town's Waitrose supermarket, the centre offers free tea, bread and porridge in

the morning, free showers, cheap laundry facilities, access to a GP and advice on benefits. A notice says drugs and weapons must not be brought in.

For many, getting off benefit and into work seems an impossible dream. For some, like Ferret, it's not even that. "I have worked, about ten years ago," he says, "but I was worse off than when I was on the dole."

Ferret doesn't work or claim benefit because the Child Support Agency would be at him for money to support his four children. Currently sleeping under a boat on Brighton beach, he is off the social system's radar. He says: "I can beg up to £23 a day here — enough for food and lager."

Brighton is used to politi-

cians: it will host Labour's victory conference in the autumn. It is blowsy, cosmopolitan, naughty, and much of it is rich. But it has a darker side.

Homelessness is the UK's worst per head of population. Crime, drug and housing problems are rife. Jobs have been cut in financial services where American Express is a big local employer. Low-paid, low-security jobs in hotels and catering help to create an underclass.

John Packman, head of economic development at Brighton and Hove council, points out that at 11.5 per cent, unemployment is higher than in Newcastle or Glasgow.

On the Whitehawk estate, things are worse. Hunched

down in a valley below Brighton racecourse is Whitehawk Bottom, where the teenage thug Pinkie fled after being razed in Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*. The Whitehawk is a tally of social deprivation. A silt estate of the 1930s, it was rebuilt in the early 1980s and now has all the new social problems of the 1990s: drugs, gangs, a high proportion of single mothers, the UK's second-highest child abuse figures and unemployment officially tallied at 35 per cent.

Sue Barnes, organiser for young people's activities on the Whitehawk, says: "There are no jobs for people here. We've got third-generation unemployment on the White-

hawk; grandfathers, fathers and young people with no work." PC Paul Gossland, the community police officer, is passionate about education, training and work to break the cycle of deprivation and crime. "If the cycle gets broken, it makes my work easier," he says. "But at least I get paid. That's more than most do here."

Paul Agius is trying as a single parent to bring up his nine-year-old daughter. "I have been out of work for five years," he says. Now he's parking cars for a living, trying to stay off benefit. There are jobs at the marina, in shops, restaurants, a new Virgin cinema. Lynn, struggling to bring up her own children,

says the hours make taking such jobs difficult — and dangerous if your have to get back to the estate at night when the gangs are out.

Libby Coleman, head teacher at the Stanley Deason comprehensive, has few illusions. The two previous heads left on grounds of stress-related ill-health. She details day-to-day stories of horror, misery and deprivation: an 11-year-old absent because he was taken to Amsterdam to be a child prostitute; a stepfather and 17-year-old daughter dying of a heroin overdose on the same weekend; truanting attacking a baby being carried by its mother in a local park.

The school is under Ofsted special measures, largely because of "shocking" attendance problems. Yet Libby Coleman is inspirationally optimistic. Long-term unemployment, she says, is a more significant factor than almost anyone in work can understand. Pupils dream of working for Amex.

Today companies such as Ford, Boots, Marks & Spencer, Rover, Asda, BT and British Steel will be asked by the Chancellor to help with precisely these kind of problems.

**B**usiness leaders visiting Stanley Deason, the Whitehawk and First Base and more last week under a programme run by the Prince of Wales's Business in the Community, are already doing so, pledging direct aid like surplus computer equipment, industrial washing machines and phone services.

They were shocked by what they saw in Brighton. "It takes you out of your own world," says Bob Mason, personnel director in BT's personal communications division. "It puts you in an environment you don't understand."

The Prince's Trust will be closely involved in delivering the Government's welfare-to-work programme on the ground. Business in the Community will meet Treasury officials the day before the Budget to discuss implementation ideas.

Research for the Employment Policy Institute shows that unemployment has hit hardest among the worst-off because the number of households with no one in paid work has grown disproportionately. And 52 per cent of people on previous government schemes go back to non-employment.

Ministers now want to back practical help and support programmes from business to give people a hand back up and back in to society. Ferret, Lee and those like them may be down. The Government's welfare-to-work plans in the Budget will try to ensure they are not permanently out as well.

chains, including Freeman Hardy Willis, Dolcis and Saxe, have had a tough time. BSC has had special problems, with frequent management upheavals and changes of direction: it is now under David James, a company doctor, who may sell, shut or merge any of its remaining brands.

Nine West aims to concentrate on concessions and upmarket boutiques, letting others fight over the more difficult mass market. Although Nine West is mooted as a buyer of one or other of BSC's four remaining chains — Shoe Express, Shoe City, Dolcis and Cable & Co — Spitz thinks it unlikely. "We have enough on our hands," he says.

The Nine West group has about 1,000 US stores and has begun expanding in Canada and Asia. William Levich, president, says: "Shoe Studio will give us good backroom operations and a chance to operate more efficiently." Sourcing shoes from Brazil should help to keep prices competitive and Shoe Studio can teach the group about selling through concessions, he says.

## Americans step into UK shoes

**Sarah Cunningham on a US footwear retailer's upmarket aim in Britain**

**A**t the heart of the huge difficulties of Sears lies the inability of management to get to grips with the retail giant's shoe business. Yesterday's annual meeting was told of yet another fall in sales at Shoe Express, heading for another big loss in the first half.

And just when Britain's shoe retailers think the worst is over, a new threat emerges: the Americans are coming.

Nine West, the expansion-minded US shoe company, has recently bought two British shoe retailers and picked a highly respected manager to run its UK operation. It plans to open dozens of shops and department store concessions in Britain in the next five years.

The American company bought the high-fashion shoe chain, Pied A Terre, which had gone into administration, earlier this year. Last month it added Shoe Studio to its collection.

Shoe Studio is run by David Spitz, who will head Nine West's UK activities. Shoe Studio has more than 100 department store concessions in the UK, and a few Bertie fashion shoe shops.

Industry insiders see the combination of Spitz's proven retailing skills and Nine West's financial muscle as formidable.

Spitz, 55, is from a well-known retailing family in South Africa. He moved to Britain in 1977 and worked for more than 20 years for Carvela Kurt Geiger, building up the Carvela brand. At the start of this decade, he joined Shoe Studio, then a tiny business that had just bought Bertie from British Shoe Corporation, the Sears subsidiary.

Since then — "throughout the recession", as Spitz points out — it has grown steadily. It added Rayne and its Chelsea Cobbler brand to its roster after that business became insolvent in 1992, and has two other brands, Roberto Vanni and Vivaldi, which it sells through its department store concessions.

Nine West plans to expand not just

Pied A Terre, Bertie and Shoe Studio, but also to open, within five years, up to 30 branches of its upmarket Nine West stores and 30 of its Easy Spirit "comfort shoes" stores. The first two Nine Wests are to open this month in London, at Hampstead and South Molton Street. A flagship store in Covent Garden is planned for November.

Nine West's confidence in the UK is based on changes in Britain's shoe market in the past decade. Cheaper women's shoes are now available from many clothing retailers, such as Marks & Spencer, Next and River Island, which, between them, now hold a big slice of the market. The rise of trainers and the development of department store concessions have also meant that traditional specialists, such as Clarks and BSC, which once ran a dozen

that I realise he has gone native, and no communication is now possible between us. I still have absolutely no idea. Something to do with giving prizes in return for attracting viewers to corporate websites? He sighs. "I, too, used to be one of those middle-aged corporate Luddites."

**● SAY it with flowers, perhaps. Those brutal City sackings — black bin-bag, clear your desk, leave the premises while your name goes out over the tannoy — may be a thing of the past, according to legal opinion.**

Ronnie Fox, of Fox Williams, who negotiates pay-offs for departing executives, has been examining the case of the two former Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) employees who are claiming that working for the failed bank has damaged their career prospects. Fox thinks employees who are given the chop in humiliating circumstances may be entitled to extra compensation. Fox says: "This is a cautionary tale for employers. There are certain kinds of conduct that are no longer applicable."

### Hart beat

MICHAEL HART, one of the best known men in fund management, might be with us for a bit longer yet, it seems. He

was set to retire from Foreign & Colonial at Christmas after 40 years with the firm, but he has been drafted in as the new director general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

This is, interestingly, an open-ended contract with no time limit — his predecessor was there for four and a half years. Hart will be 65 when he takes it up next January and sees it as approaching a full-time job. "I expect to be up in the City every day," he says. He is not sure how many years he will stay. "That depends on the chairman of the AITC. I think we will see how it goes."

MARTIN WALLER



"This is William. He's the black sheep of the family. He went into pensions advice"

## Getting the bird

THE bird of doom fluttered ominously through Guildhall yesterday, as the archaic electoral practices of the Corporation of London came in for fresh attack. The feathered intruder — a blackbird — took to swooping about the Great Hall in view of the 1,000 or so liverymen there for the election of the City of London's Sheriffs. Malcolm Matson, blackballed by the Aldermen nearly three years ago, questioned the system under which one of them can hold office for 25 years or more without having to go back to the

electorate. The biggest applause came for Dennis Delferfield, the wilfully unsuccessful third candidate who requested no one vote for him, and his reference to the "secret Aldermanic star chamber".

The Lord Mayor, Sir Roger Cork, said the whole issue was up for review, and added: "The present electoral arrangements cannot be defended and must be changed." Yes, but when? David Howard of Charles Stanley, the private client stockbroker, and Michael Oliver, a director of Hill Samuel Asset Management, were duly approved as Sheriffs. No surprise there.

**● THE photographers are lined up at Vendôme yesterday to snap away at Joseph Kanoui, the chairman, holding a £4 million jewelled necklace. It arrives from Cartier, which is owned by Vendôme, in a red box accompanied by some heavy muscle. The red box is opened, and there is an awful fuss. The necklace is destined for some film or other, it must not be seen by the outside world — it is "not relevant". It is, in short, the wrong necklace. Muscle departs with box. Just how many £4 million necklaces do you have around there, then?**



Malcolm Matson: called into question practice of indefinite tenure



### System down

DABBLE too long in the black arts of the computer and you become not as other mortals, it seems.

Six months ago Gary Caesar, 46, was a buyout specialist not long quit as head of the Bank of Tokyo's European merchant banking. Now he has become involved in an Internet venture called Global Enter-Prize with, of all people, Christian Moore, 25-year-old son of Roger Moore, the actor.

"I'm the grey hair — I'm the one that didn't understand what a computer was until six months ago," he says. He is also the main investor. That six months was spent immersing himself in computer lore. It is when he tries to explain to me what his company does



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Time to hit the fatter cats on the home front

**G**ordon Brown is reported to be racking his brains for a fall of a heavy reader response, he has now refined it. The main features of Muellbauer Mark II are as follows:

□ Council tax should be based on current values, either with a full valuation every two years, or less frequent surveys with indexation to fill the gaps.

□ Banding might be retained for simplicity: but there should be far more than the present eight valuation bands, with a ceiling, if any, far above the £320,000 of the 1991 tax.

□ The fiscal freedom of local authorities could be restricted by imposing a floor and a ceiling rate for the tax — say, between 0.6 and 1 per cent of valuation.

This would limit the freedom of rich authorities such as Westminster to "reward" their already rich taxpayers by levying the lowest rate in the country.

□ The first call on the higher revenue that should result should be on cutting the rate support grant correspondingly, easing pressure on the national budget.

□ A realistic tax would be a heavy burden on old people who choose to end their days in highly valued houses. (NB: this is why the tax is essentially voluntary.) They could be offered the British Columbia alternative: the charge to be left as a claim, with accrued interest, on the property itself, to be settled when the property is finally sold or handed down. These claims could readily be sold by needy local authorities.

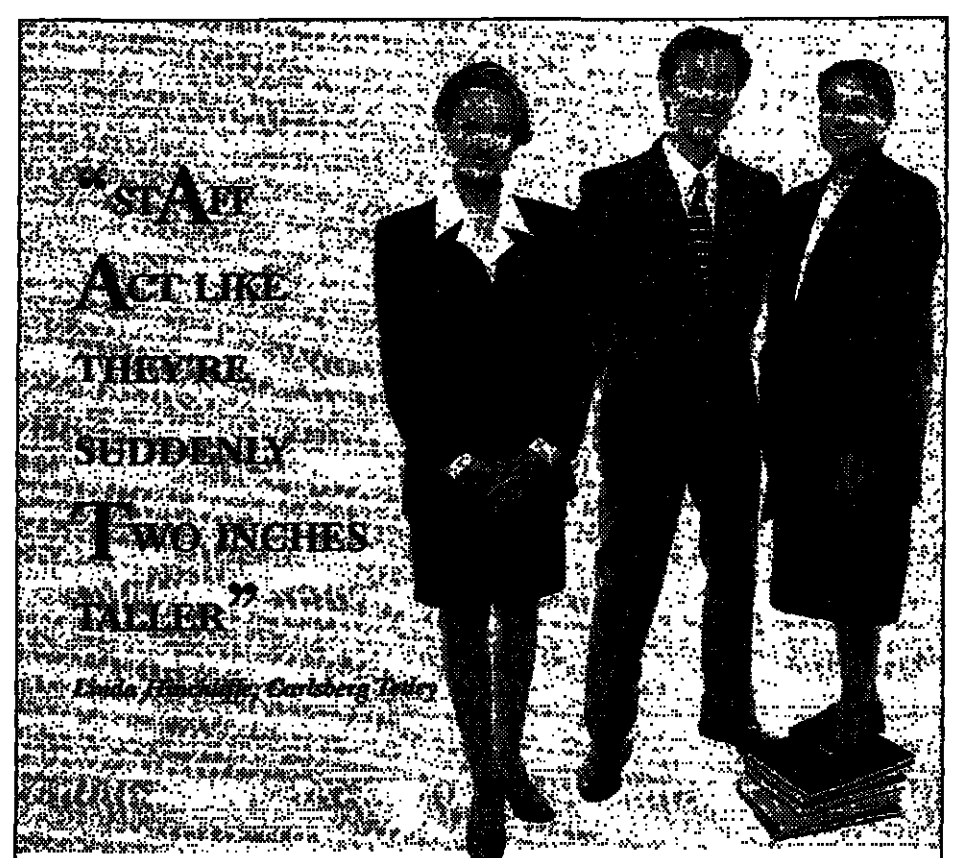
Such a radical reform could hardly be announced, fully fledged, next week; but even if Gordon Brown only said that a reform was under study, the effect on house prices would be instant. This would damp down the most buoyant component of the inflation that worries the Bank of England at the moment. And Muellbauer has another short in his locker: an increase in stamp duty, possibly only temporary.

Memo: is the Chancellor of the Exchequer looking for a Wise Man?

Local authorities collect only a third of what they received under the old rate system. Result: a huge extra burden on national taxes, and the destruction of local democracy.

Yet proper value-based systems have been maintained, with only routine grumbling, in such far from revolutionary places as Canada, South Africa, and many (though not all) US states. A reform is simple common sense, and long overdue; for a government in a self-imposed fiscal straitjacket, it ought to be top of the agenda.

Muellbauer first proposed



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## ■ OPERA 1

An insider reveals the background to the crisis at the Royal Opera House



## ■ OPERA 2

Renée Fleming scores a personal triumph as a dazzling Manon at the Bastille in Paris

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ OPERA 3

...but at the Barbican John Eliot Gardiner miscalculates the tone of Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*



## ■ OPERA 4

Garsington gives a fine British stage premiere to Richard Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena*

OPERA: Renée Fleming makes Manon her own in Paris. Plus how to rebuild the House for the people, and other reviews

# How to storm the Bastille

Manon  
Paris

Renée Fleming has always relished the big challenge. The American soprano is usually at her best when the most demanding aria arrives or a testing new role is taken on. Challenges do not come much larger than *Manon*, especially when sung in Paris. But Fleming took the risk of the Bastille for her debut and the result was a personal triumph. Her Manon is in the great tradition of de los Angeles and Cotrubas.

After establishing her reputation as a Mozart singer Fleming has been moving gently into the French repertoire, with Gounod's *Marguerite and Massenet's Herodiade*. *Manon* is made of sterner vocal stuff than either. She may claim to be quite overwhelmed when she steps out at the coaching inn at Amiens, but the gurgle of laughter in her voice suggests that despite best parental intentions she is hardly convent material. In Gilbert Dello's production she spots the attractions of Des Grieux before he notes hers.

Fleming handles this opening scene with delicious girlish coquetry, although she has not yet come to terms with the Manon of Act II, where personal greed prevails over puppy love. Once Manon is established as the catch of Paris Fleming starts dazzling again. The Cours-la-Reine

scene is given the full treatment by Dello: jugglers, tight-rope walkers, flame swallows and a visit from the Opéra-Ballet. She has all the vocal equipment to make the switch from the coloratura of Manon's favorite to the impassioned seduction of Des Grieux. And Fleming is equally powerful at charting Manon's downward curve before she dies, repenting her frivolous and selfish life, beneath a single evening star on the road to Le Havre.

Around her the Bastille has assembled a strong and sharply characterised cast. Richard Leech is a French opera specialist, although surprisingly this was his house debut. His Des Grieux is winningly sung, especially in the middle register, and in excellent French.

The two Americans were supported by homegrown singers, led by Jean-Luc Chaignaud's Lescaut, personable and warmly sung. A young baritone to watch. At the other end of the age spectrum 70-year-old Michel Sénéchal delighted his personal following as the equally elderly roué, Guillot, with his trio of mistresses. Other notable contributions came from Laurent Naouri (Father Des



Down but not out: a triumphant Renée Fleming with Richard Leech in Massenet's *Manon*

Grieux) and Franck Ferrari (Briégny). William Orlandi fills the stage of the Bastille with a huge wooden rotunda which takes its colour from the dark blue sky of the last act. It breaks up easily into segments as required, but casts a

gloomy shadow on the pleasure-seeking in the first half. And it offers little intimacy for the lovers of Act II or the gaming rooms of Act IV. Gilbert Dello's staging is fluid and fast moving. Gary Bertini conducts with a light but fastidious touch until the

chips are down at the gambling tables of the Hotel de Transylvanie. Then he gives Massenet full throttle.

JOHN HIGGINS

Manon continues in repertoire until July 12, but Renée Fleming does not sing on July 4 or 12

## A classic rarity revealed

RICHARD STRAUSS'S *Die ägyptische Helena* (The Egyptian Helena) has not previously been staged in this country, and rarely heard at all. The Royal Opera scheduled two concert performances next season, and was none too pleased to find it had been preempted by Garsington Opera, to whom goes the honour of the UK premiere.

Was the hostile reception at the 1928 Dresden premiere justified? And why has it taken so long to reach here? In fact, it has been neglected in Germany too, and it is no coincidence that it is resurrected in a climate sympathetic to the old-fashioned virtues of lyrical melody and ingratiating harmony. Contemporary critics rebuked the composer for his reversion to a reactionary style, but the work has continued to be criticised more for the density of Hofmannsthal's symbolism.

The great achievement of David Fielding's production is

*Agyptische Helena*  
Garsington

its elucidation of that symbolism. The opera fills in the gap in the story of Helen of Troy between her return with the avenging Menelaus and the blissful domesticity they were enjoying some years later. It was not Helen, by this account, that went off to Troy with Paris, but a lookalike phantom; the real Helen was whisked away to Egypt.

Fielding sets the action on one of his skewed stages with the main characters gaudily attired in modern dress. The enigmatic Ormisdas Mussel (Rebecca de Pont Davies) is embodied by a black-writhed figure, mirroring in unison with the desert warriors, in attendance on the chieftain Althair and his son Da-ud (Roderick Earle and Nicholas Sears, both excellent), brings the

action up to date: Saudi dealers bearing gifts in briefcases. Fielding's direction and design focus brilliantly on the central issues: marital fidelity, the tensions arising from the breaches of it, and the guilt inspired in the "innocent" party. Those who follow had too much difficulty penetrating the fantastical trappings of this much-maligned work.

If the tone of Susan Bullcock's Helen, generally radiant, had an occasionally harsh edge, that is consistent with Hofmannsthal's conception of her as "demonic". The American tenor John Horton Murray had a courageous stab at the taxing role of Menelaus, while Helen Field was admirable as Althair. Conductor Elgar Howarth matched the clarity of the production with the realisation of his own skilful edition for 55 players.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Crisis of identity

*Rake's Progress*  
Barbican

anti-operative music theatre works, was it his true voice with operatic tradition, and is the irony tender rather than scornful?

Perhaps it is both, because a good *Rake* has both pungency and poetry. This was neither hard-driven nor lyrical, though the LSO played with finesse. The clue to this *Rake's* identity crisis came in the casting, which appeared to equate Neo-Classicism with "early music" voices.

The biggest casualty of this casting was Deborah York's Anne Trulove. York has a fresh, appealing soprano, but was unequal to the demands of the role. Ian Bostridge was a disappointingly bland Tom Rakewell, not least because he lacked the dramatic presence even for this semi-staged performance. Peter Bronder, as Sellem, displayed the tenorial strength needed in the title role. Anne Howells was an amusingly coarse Mother Goose. Anne Sofie von Otter spoilt her strongly sung Baba the Turk by overdoing the comedy, but the Monteverdi Choir struck the right balance with its lively, incisive singing. All were overshadowed by Terfel's vivid devil, who stole the show with singing in a class above the rest.

JOHN ALLISON

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CHANGING TIMES

## The show must go on, but cheaper

Patrick Carnegy offers the Heritage Secretary his ideas on Covent Garden

For four years I held a senior post in Jeremy Isaacs's administration of the Royal Opera House. Since I left in 1992, I have been an unsolicited observer of the crescendo of troubles to which the House has been subject. The interest shown by the new Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, in resolving these troubles prompts me to venture a few thoughts.

The offence that rankles most is that a single arts institution should command so large a slice of public funding while remaining beyond the purse of all but the well-off. That is something which Smith says he is determined to tackle. Incredible though it may seem, the Isaacs regime tried hard to do so but was defeated by a tide running the other way. Partly this was a product of Thatcherism, partly of the recession.

By 1991-92 the proportion of the House's costs met by public subsidy had fallen from 50 per cent over the previous decade to 37 per cent. That figure was less than half the proportion of funding received by comparable opera houses on the Continent. The subsidy to the Royal Opera company (as distinct from the House's two ballet companies) was running at no more than 32 per cent.

To stay in business the management had little option but to seek private funding (which peaked at 19 per cent of revenue in 1991-92) and to jack up seat prices. I continue to wonder whether a better option would not have been to follow the RSC's successful gambit at the Barbican and close the House until funds to be up and running at sen-

sible prices were forthcoming. But no, the show went on. Artists and their backstage colleagues rode through cuts and every imaginable blow to their morale to continue to deliver world-class performances. The villains, obviously enough, were the profligate and incompetent administrators. Whatever the limited truth in that belief, the heart of the matter lies elsewhere.

The disease from which the House is suffering is that of its identity in the community. It has become neither a public institution, reasonably accessible to all, nor a private one supported by its patrons for their own exclusive enjoyment. The New York Met and Glyndebourne Festival Opera are examples of the latter.

While Covent Garden continues to receive public money, yet remains palpably out of reach to so many, it will continue to stir the wrath of the populace at large. If Smith wants to see a House of which the nation can be truly proud — as one imagines it is of the National Theatre, the Tate and National Galleries, the British Museum and libraries throughout the land — he has to put a great deal more

money into it, not less. It is either that, or privatisation.

Funding at a higher level will need to be accompanied by major changes in the way the House is run. The directors can no longer be allowed to be drawn so disproportionately from the seriously wealthy, who are offered a soupçon of control (and often very much more than that) in return for their cash. The processes of their selection and accountability need to be redesigned. There will, of course, need to be a commitment to make a far higher proportion of seats available at generally affordable prices, and to expand the vibrant education work that has been sustained, largely unsung, for years.

There is much to be done to develop an awareness — especially difficult in Britain, which is only really comfortable with the notion that the arts are entertainment and to be paid for as such — that opera and ballet, like the visual arts, are part of the lifeblood of a civilised society.

With a theatre of little more than 2,000 seats "accessibility" will always be constrained but, yes, big-screen relays to the piazza are a help. Far more important is to increase the number of Proms weeks, until that every major new opera and ballet production can be seen at modest cost by anyone prepared to queue round the block for an hour or two before thronging the carpet where the stalls seats usually are. There could be no more opportune time than the imminent closure for a once-and-for-all renegotiation of contracts so



that each and every production of significance will be broadcast by radio or television to the country at large.

But no matter what the new financial and administrative arrangements are, the Royal Opera company will command unconditional artistic respect, internally and externally, only when it is seen to have at its head a music director with the will and

commitment to determine artistic policy and practice at every level.

Such was or is the case with the companies run by Mahler, Klemperer, Solti, Levine and Barenboim. That is how a house becomes truly great. The Royal Opera House deserves no less.

The author was dramaturge (literary director) of the Royal Opera House from 1988 to 1992

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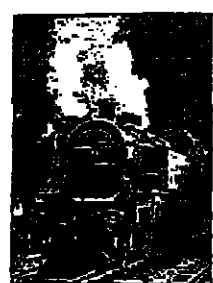
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## HERITAGE

One of the world's great wonders? The Great Western Railway could become a World Heritage Site



## RISING STAR

Nell Catchpole is reinventing the art of string playing with an ensemble that won't stay still

## THE TIMES ARTS



## FESTIVAL

Gidon Kremer forsakes the violin classics and pays lyrical tribute to the king of tango



## TOMORROW

Cape of good hope? *Batman & Robin*, and the other new movies, reviewed by Geoff Brown

# The train now leaving for the world ...

Is Brunel's Great Western Railway a heritage site fit to rank with the Pyramids? Marcus Binney reports

Here is a bold idea: designate the whole of the Great Western Railway from Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads as a World Heritage Site, to stand alongside Stonehenge, the Pyramids, the Acropolis and the Taj Mahal.

The idea comes from Sir Neil Cossons, the tireless director of the Science Museum, who explains: "Brunel's Great Western is the earliest major inter-city line in the world that is anything like complete, with the termini at both ends, as well as all the civil engineering works, Maidenhead Railway Station, the Maidenhead Railway Bridge, the Maidenhead Railway Tunnel and Swindon Railway Station."

The problem is that in the past six years Britain has put forward only two new candidates for consideration as World Heritage Sites. One is Edinburgh Castle, the other Maritime Greenwich (set to win approval this summer). That's on top of our initial burst of 13, which included Hadrian's Wall and Blenheim Palace.

Meanwhile, France, Spain and India have sped ahead, and Italy is bringing forward 11 applications this year alone, including the amphitheatre in Verona, the palaces of the House of Savoy in Piedmont, the botanical gardens in Padua, the cultural landscape of Amalfi, as well as Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Spain is placing all its great historic towns on the list, and this year will see the Art Nouveau Palace of Catalan Music and the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona added

to the Gaudi masterpieces already included.

To be designated a World Heritage Site, you must first be on your country's "tentative list". Britain's, dating back to 1985, is a shambles. St David's was turned down, a cluster of Cambridge colleges was withdrawn. Chatsworth and Stourhead, although clearly worthy, are not being pushed, and the only real credit goes to

**‘The World Heritage list prompts countries to care better for their monuments’**

the Isle of Man for getting both Peel Castle and Cregneash village included.

Among historic towns, York, Winchester and Chester would dearly love to join Bath on the list, but as of now the industrial archaeologists look set to make the running. Ironbridge Gorge, as the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, got in early, and Cossons argues: "Our one incontestable claim is Britain's pre-eminence in the Industrial Revolution. We have to put forward a list of half a dozen top sites for designation by the new millennium."

For a long while Unesco's World Heritage Committee,

composed mainly of architects, art historians and diplomats, was suspicious of industrial heritage. Now it is softening. Finland won recognition for a fantastic paper mill at Verla with all its machinery intact and a history spanning three centuries. "It's just as it was when the last workers walked out in 1970," says Henry Cleere, the British archaeologist who marshals the applications at the headquarters of the International Council on Monuments and Sites in Paris.

One of Britain's problems is our determination to turn everything into scrap. The 1930s turbine hall of Battersea Power Station, the cathedral of electricity, was butchered. "There's not one trace above ground of many of the steel works which used to be the powerhouses of British industry," Cleere says.

The Germans learnt this lesson and when they stepped in to buy the great iron works at Völklingen in the Saarland, they paid full scrap value to secure it intact.

Even though the British invented the railway, the Austrians got in there first with the nomination of the Simmeringbahn, part of the line from Vienna to Venice. "It's a stupendous and early piece of civil engineering, breathtaking in its audacity," Cleere says.

So just how important is primary? Robert Owen's model mill village at New Lanark was turned down because the French claimed there were earlier such communities, and



Turner's *Rain, Steam and Speed, Great Western Railway*, now in the National Gallery, was inspired by Brunel's new Maidenhead Bridge

now the Italians have slipped in with a remarkable textile company town at Crespi d'Adda, inspired by Owen.

Britain's great naval dockyards, notably Portsmouth, also numbered among the world's industrial powerhouses, but the Swedes have raced ahead by nominating their superb dockyard at Karlskrona. Yet Portsmouth, Chatham with its working ropery, and the spectacular Royal William Victualling Yard at Plymouth are almost equal candidates.

Cossons wonders whether imperialist overtones might count against us here. "Not a problem," says Cleere. "The list includes Spanish colonial towns in South America, not to mention Edward I castles in Wales."

Another candidate is the Forth Bridge. But, Cossons acknowledges, this may be "a stupendous landmark, but it is not the world's first steel bridge". Instead the Americans look set to win recognition for the mighty Brooklyn Bridge. "We may have 19 Gothic cathedrals on the list, but I'm not sure the World Heritage Committee will want more than one bridge, railway, dockyard, canal or dam," Cleere says.

Other candidates for Britain's industrial shortlist are the Arkwright Mills at Cromford, Derbyshire, a group of Cornish mining landscapes, Albert Dock in Liverpool and Pont Cysyllte, the cast-iron canal viaduct across the Vale of Llangollen. The published criteria for

the World Heritage list are quite broadly drawn, including monuments, groups of buildings and sites combining the work of man and nature. They must be deemed of outstanding universal value and meet the test of authenticity (although the reconstructed historic centre of Warsaw is included). They can be masterpieces of creative genius or testimonies to civilisations living or vanished.

With the inclusion of the

Bauhaus at Weimar and Dessau, the way is open for 20th-century nominations. Brasilia got in when it played host to the committee and nominated itself. The Sydney Opera House was sailing forward when it was withdrawn because of a nasty little row between Canberra and New South Wales.

The Dutch have a group of windmills in the pipeline; the French won approval last year for the great Canal du Midi,

although no one has yet nominated Suez or Panama.

The World Heritage list may simply be a list of superlatives, but it prompts countries to care better for their monuments, as a proper management plan is required for inclusion. With Britain set to rejoin Unesco, Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, can show that, where world-class heritage is concerned, he can do better than some of his recent predecessors.

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

## NELL CATCHPOLE

Age 24.

Profession: Viola player/violinist.

Magnificent seven: She is joint artistic director of the gogmagogs, the string septet gaining wide acclaim for their unorthodox and theatrical performances of specially composed pieces by the likes of Roger Eno and Jane Gardner.

Hear and now: Their second show, *The gogmagogs gig again*, which features 12 new pieces, is at the Bridewell Theatre until July 5 as part of the City of London Festival.

Musicians on a mission: The gogs (Catchpole on viola, plus three violins, two cellos and a double bass) have clear artistic aims: "We are trying to reinvent the role of the classical string player by removing the music stands, memorising the music and releasing the physical expressiveness of our ensemble playing."

Which means? "We might steal each other's instruments in the middle of a piece, or play while lying flat on our backs."

Classical training: She performed at the Barbican as a member of Pro Corda, the national school for young chamber musicians. A degree in social anthropology was followed by postgraduate work at the Guildhall.

Big break: "My mother had been at art school with Brian Eno and bumped into him in a supermarket in Suffolk when I was 16. He needed a string player for something."

Session work: She played on U2's Eno-produced album, *Achtung Baby*. "I hadn't really heard of them, and on the first day I was sitting next to Adam Clayton, and I said: 'What do you do around here?' They loved that."

The future? "I want to keep going with the flow. But there's a streak in me that likes going to the edge of things."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



## First the sexy tango, then an orgy of violins

Noël Goodwin sees this year's Meltdown music festival get under way

Three programmes at the weekend launched this year's Meltdown series of musical medleys on the South Bank, directed this time by Laurie Anderson, who is nothing if not eclectic in her selection.

She began by inviting the virtuoso violinist Gidon Kremer to show his more vibrantly expressive manner in *Hommage à Piazzolla*, a tribute to Astor Piazzolla, the master of the new Argentine tango, who died in 1992. Kremer's fondness for his music is already represented on disc, and in concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall it had its magical moments as well as its more diffuse stretches.

Kremer shared the platform with three no less accomplished partners, the Norwegian Per Arne Glorvigen, with his subtly controlled bandoneon (something like a large concertina), the Russian Vadim Sakharov as a pianist of varied textures, and Austria's Alois Posch, whose double bass offered a foundation of rhythm and firm timbre.

The tango rhythm was more often implied and mercifully not thumped at us; a Piazzolla tango has about as much relation to the European ballroom as a Chopin waltz to imperial Vienna, although its mood is predominantly one of languid melancholy.

There were exceptions, like

the chirpy and sensual *Dearissimo*, and the fantastical *Grand Tango* for violin and piano, with its bravura element and echoes of Stravinsky. One of the *Two Tango Encores* for violin alone was reminiscent of Paganini or Sarasate. Every number was contained well within harmonic convention, including the heavier dance rhythm of *Instead of a Tango* by Kanchell, the first of several encores which otherwise reverted to Piazzolla as a composer of engaging appeal if limited range.

Kremer was back the next night to lead the Meltdown Ensemble as soloist in the premiere of what George Pelecs titles *Very Serious Variations on the Etude No 2 by Kreutzer*, actually a good practice piece for the violin in scatic passage work, which Kremer dispatched with amused enthusiasm under the conducting of Simon Wills. They were surrounded by the rest of the massed 100 Violins

(as the programme was called), each listed by name on the programme sheet.

Anderson was on hand to lead her own Tape Bow Quartet, an invented instrument of hers with a tape playback head on the violin's body and a strip of recorded tape on the bow handily mixing sound sources to diverting effect. The fashionable mix of natural and electronic sounds was basic to various works by Joe Townsend, one of which added a couple of good tap-dancers for good measure, and the concluding *Diabolo*—resembling all the participants—built a reel or jig into a mighty crescendo that had the audience cheering.

After an unannounced 90 minutes in which the audience was left to kick its heels in the foyer while a group of violinists belted out more reels, jigs and other odds and ends, we returned to hear Ashley MacLissac, something of a Canadian cult figure, and his Kitchen Devils play what was somewhere described as "Celtic grunge".

This was a rock group inflicting grievous bodily harm on some inoffensive jigs, with MacLissac a maverick violinist apparently trying to stamp a hole in the stage. It sounded as if it could go on all night and, for all I know, may have done so.

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Leading West End Theatre PR Company requires SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Must be fast, efficient, computer literate, able to take the initiative, with good organisational skills and excellent telephone manner, often dealing with top West End theatre clients, in central London, email, friendly, busy office. Age independent. Salary £13-£15K. Please write, with CV, to: Amanda Phillips, PTA, 134 Gt Portland St, London W1N 5PL.

## PAs - Apply your flair in a blue-chip environment

West London

Salary circa. £24k

Consolidated Financial Insurance (CFI) is Europe's leading provider of payment protection insurance operating in 14 locations worldwide. The group underwrites insurance for over 150 of Europe's top financial institutions including banks, building societies, finance houses, retailers and utilities. CFI is wholly owned by GE Capital Services Inc., which in turn is owned by General Electric (USA) - the world's largest company.

We are looking for a Personal Assistant to work with the Group Director, US Business, in all aspects of administration to provide comprehensive and confidential secretarial support. This position plays a pivotal role within a dynamic and fast moving division. Candidates will need the following qualifications and experience to succeed in this role:

- Minimum of three years' experience in a blue-chip company at Board Director level.
- Formal secretarial training - minimum of 60wpm typing speed and 100wpm shorthand.
- In-depth knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint, experience of working with databases is also desirable.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate at senior level.
- High energy, enthusiasm and ability to work under pressure.
- Highly organised with ability to prioritise own workload and particularly Directors diary management.

As part of GE Capital we are able to offer an excellent remuneration package and first class benefits to include an on-site gymnasium and a subsidised restaurant.

Please write, with full CV, including salary details, to: Joanne Westwood, Human Resources, Consolidated Financial Insurance, Vantage West, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9AG.

GE Capital  
Consolidated Financial Insurance

\*Trademark of General Electric Company, U.S.A., which is not connected with the English company of a similar name.

## TROWERS & HAMLINS

### WP SYSTEMS ASSISTANT

Trowers & Hamblins is a large and expanding firm of solicitors in Central London. We are looking for someone to assist our existing WP Systems team predominantly on the Help Desk.

The candidate must have an excellent working knowledge of WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows together with a basic understanding of a PC based Network. A knowledge of SoftSolution and previous secretarial and support experience would be an advantage. Excellent communication and organisational skills are essential for this role.

The position offers a competitive salary. Please send your curriculum vitae indicating your salary expectations to:

Miss Rebecca Marks  
Trowers & Hamblins  
6 New Square  
Lincoln Inn  
London WC2A 3RP

Closing date for applications is Friday 4 July 1997

## PA TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

c.£14,000

English Heritage is the government's statutory advisory body on the built heritage, including archaeology. It is responsible for managing over 400 of the country's most important historic properties and ancient monuments as visitor attractions as well as administering national grant schemes.

You will be assisting the Director in this senior and prominent position by providing general secretarial support: prioritising mail, dealing with inquiries, planning the Director's diary and making travel arrangements. You will also play a part in the day to day running of the office, forging good working relations with the Public Affairs, assisting with preparation of press material and helping organise PR and media events.

In addition to excellent word-processing and written English skills, you will have a good personal assistant background, preferably with experience of dealing with the media. You'll be keen to rise to the challenge of a pressured environment in which attention to detail and a highly organised approach are essential. Some overtime working may be required.

For further information please write with your CV and a covering letter, quoting ref no R/77/97 to Lucy Riordan, Personnel Department, English Heritage, Room 409, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. Closing date: 9th July 1997. Interviews will be held on 21st July 1997.

Unfortunately we are unable to reply individually to all applicants. If you have not heard from us within four weeks of the closing date, please accept that your application has not been successful.

English Heritage is committed to an equal opportunities policy.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Policy Research & Planning Department

### Personal Assistant - Corporate Policy Director

Salary: £13,540 - £18,484pa  
(starting salary will not exceed £16,140pa)

- The Policy, Research & Planning Department is responsible for the co-ordination of planning and policy development across the Arts Council's artform departments and the Regional Arts Boards. It also acts as the key link point with other partners in the funding system, in particular the British Film Institute, Crafts Council and local authorities.
- Central to this work is the provision and co-ordination of research, information and research management for the funding system. The Department manages the Central Research Budget and co-ordinates all research work undertaken. In addition, the Department provides support and advice on the development of arts and disability, and cultural diversity.
- The Corporate Policy Director requires an experienced PA to provide a secretarial and administrative service and act as the linchpin in this extremely busy department. Applicants must have at least two years' previous experience of working for a Senior Manager.
- They will also need to have excellent office management skills, fast and accurate word-processing, together with effective communication skills. Commitment and the ability to work as part of a versatile departmental team is essential. Previous database or spreadsheet training and experience would be an advantage.
- Benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme, season ticket loan, central London location, subsidised afternoon and 22-25 days annual leave. For further details and an application form, please send a large self-addressed envelope (at least 8" x 5") quoting ref: PACPD, to the Personnel Department, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 0171 630 8925 between 10am and 4pm only. Minimum users may contact the Council on 0171 973 6564. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 9 July 1997.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

## PA - Salary + Incentives Circa £25,000+

Working with partners in a friendly group of management consultants specialising in managing change and based in the West End.

This is a two PA role offering the opportunity to become involved in the business with the opportunity for development. You must be able to make decisions and prioritise work under pressure, be well organised and a self starter.

You need an excellent telephone manner and WP skills. A knowledge of databases, presentation packages and experience in a professional services firm will be an advantage. An interest in management consultancy and organisational development would be useful.

Please telephone Sue Nelson on 0171-631-1831 for further details.

## CLERICAL ASSISTANT

BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1.

The position offers scope for an individual to develop a quality service. You should be a self-starter, proactive and able to work under pressure when needed. The position requires various experience including:

- Managing a database on behalf of a major client.
- Dealing with heavy enquiries.
- Based documents and controlling of letters.
- Dealing with non-compliance.
- Dealing with and solving problems.
- Managing System and Excel spreadsheets.

If you possess the above experience along with strong IT skills, please send your cv with current salary to: Jennifer Kelly, Personnel & Training Officer, Chubb, 41 Berkeley Square, London W1X 6DR. Chubb is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## TEAM SECRETARY

We are a busy firm of Consulting Engineers looking for a capable enthusiastic person to act as a secretary to one of our design teams and two Partners. The role includes typing, organising diaries, arranging meetings, filing and managing reception. Fast accurate typing and a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word 6 or WP5.1 is essential. We operate a no smoking policy within the office.

Please apply in writing with CV and a daytime telephone number to:

Garth Theron  
Alan Baxter & Associates  
14-16 Cowcross Street  
LONDON  
EC1M 6DR

## MARKETING SECRETARY

c. £23,000 +  
BANKING BENS

Are you an expert juggler, looking for a varied and involving role? This prominent Investment Bank seeks an accomplished secretary/administrator to support their Business Development team. The role involves producing presentations, travel itineraries, organising events plus research and project work. You will need to be a strong communicator, with excellent administrative & IT skills. The pace is fast so flexibility and the confidence to work under pressure is essential.



Telephone:  
0171 680 6806

# Crème de la Crème

Fax:  
0171 782 7586

## ROOM AT THE TOP

Multimedia Executive PA

£28,000 Package

The joint Managing Directors of this international multimedia company are looking for a confident PA to run their busy office. You will represent the Directors' interests when they are out of London, organise complex travel itineraries and supervise the support staff on the executive floor. You will need a high level of tact and diplomacy and significant experience at director level preferably in an international environment. The role is useful and a high level of IT literacy essential.

Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

### GRADUATE PA OPPORTUNITY

£25,000 Package

This investment arm of a prestigious merchant bank requires a Graduate Secretary to support two Fund Managers. The work is fast-paced and will give you the chance not only to see all your secretarial skills but also to be trained as a Graduate Fund Manager Assistant. Your time will be spent assisting the Fund Managers with their administration, diary management, travel arrangements and day-to-day office duties. Combined with close liaison with investment systems all over the world, your success in the City and your financial awareness will enable you to update graphs and charts from on-line financial information systems requiring initiative and imagination. If you are interested in using your secretarial skills (50 wpm) typing with knowledge of MSOffice to combine a secretarial role with that of a fund management assistant, then please call.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT

to the Director of External Relations

£19K - £21.5K p.a. inc.

The School of Oriental and African Studies is the foremost centre for the study of the civilisations and cultures of two thirds of the world's population.

The Office of External Relations publicises the work of the School in this country and overseas; it is involved in producing exhibitions, printed material and audio-visual aids and undertakes major fundraising projects.

The Personal Assistant to the Director of External Relations plays a key role in all aspects of the work of the office.

The successful candidate should have high level secretarial and organisational skills; be able to work under pressure and to act on their own initiative when required.

An application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG (Tel: 0171-323 6189 between 10.30am to 12.30pm. Fax number: 0171-638 2779. E-mail address: personnel@soas.ac.uk). No CVs or agencies.

Closing date: Wednesday 9 July 1997.

SOAS is an equal opportunities employer.

### Top law firm TRAINING ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

CITY - TO £20,000 PACKAGE

Our client is a leading multi-national law firm with 55 offices in 34 countries. A new and exciting opportunity has arisen for a dynamic individual with proven secretarial skills to develop a career in training.

The appointed candidate will provide secretarial support to the Director of Training and Senior Training Officer. The role will also involve co-ordinating development programmes for support staff, maintaining training records and assisting with the evaluation of courses.

Candidates should have a genuine enthusiasm for training, strong secretarial skills and a willingness to provide a quality-focused training service. Success in this position will depend on a flexible disposition, an ability to build rapport at all levels, initiative and attention to detail.

In the first instance, please write in confidence enclosing your CV to Patrick Faherty at Digby Morgan Consulting, London House, 53-54 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RP. Tel: 0171 321 0640. Fax: 0171 930 4261. E-mail: digby.morgan@daipepx.com

DIGBY MORGAN  
Executive Search Selection Human Resources

### Mail Order Assistant

Smythson, purveyors of stationery, diaries and leather goods, is a traditional company with a history of excellence and exclusivity, committed to offering the highest standards of customer service.

A demanding but interesting position suitable for a college leaver who is highly organised and works well under pressure. A good telephone manner is essential together with patience in order processing. The applicant must have good keyboard skills and word processing experience.

For an application form please telephone 0990 211 311

Part time staff are also required in our Bespoke Stationery Department. Please call 0171-629 8558 for more details.

### TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

The Times and The Sunday Times have a fantastic opportunity for an experienced secretary to work in the Advertising Department of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Reporting to the Office Manager, you will be part of a small professional team providing secretarial support to a demanding sales force. Working mainly with management teams, your role promises to be extremely busy and requires an energetic and flexible person. Your outgoing and lively personality will get you through the 'impossible' days and your infectious good humour and dedication to achieving the highest possible standards will provide a positive influence on all those you come in contact with.

You will be an expert with Microsoft Office packages and welcome the opportunity to exercise your creative flair using Powerpoint. Your understanding and application of Excel is second only to Bill Gates. I think you're getting a flavour of what I'm looking for.

If you can relate to the above and are looking for a new challenge, send your application in writing, together with a current CV including salary expectations to Angela Lodge, Office Manager, News International Newspapers Ltd, Advertising Services Department, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9BL.

Closing date for applications: 7th July 1997.

### Managerial Secretary

£20,000 package a.a.

Leading International Company

Placing People First

0171 828 2727

Talman Secretarial Ltd, Ramo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London W1R 5AB. Tel: 0171 828 2727 Fax: 0171 630 6318 E-mail: talman@talmansecretarial.co.uk

### PA to US Director

Canary Wharf to £25,000 & Bens

Fantastic opportunity for an efficient PA to provide full support to this senior banker, handling business and personal affairs. You will enjoy considerable autonomy and will use your organisational and admin skills fully. An interest in the arts and an awareness of the social scene in London will help when co-ordinating client entertainment. Skills: 60 WPM/Excel. Experience: financial. Age: 28-38. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.

### Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

### Marketing

£19,000 Richmond

Are you a real character? Could you hold your own in a young, fast paced progressive company? Do you have experience of working 1:1 at Managing Director level as well as taking on ad hoc projects and responsibilities such as PR and Personnel? If you can say 'yes' to all of these questions and have 50+ wpm typing, have prepared presentations and are looking for a challenging career role, please contact: Andrea Murrell on 0171 434 4512.

### Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

### Sales

Co-Ordinator £18.5K

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a team spirited, proactive co-ordinator for this dynamic interior design company. Based in West London you will smoothly run the department, organise sales launches & assist on newsletters, mailouts and ad-hoc projects. An outgoing, bright, clear thinker will thrive in this hectic, pressurised environment. If you have at least 18 months secretarial/administrative experience, 70wpm s/hand & can juggle ten tasks at once, please call Lucy Thomas on 0171 434 4512.

### Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

### NOT JUST A PLAIN SECRETARY PERFECT COMBINATIONS

We have perfect opportunities for Sec/PAs who are looking for more than just a job. Our Clients need people looking for scope and involvement, but most of all, who can tackle their day with intelligent enthusiasm. Based in good locations all over London but mainly in the West/End, Chelsea and Knightsbridge areas in all types of Businesses. Skills required vary from very rusty typing to good computer knowledge, fast typing and shorthand. Salaries from £10,000 to £26,000.

ANDERSON HOARE

0171 824 8821

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

£18,000 + Package

International Group Subsidiary specialising in the entertainment industry is looking for a PA to assist the MD of a young and dynamic Dept. Using your secretarial experience gained in your 1st/2nd job you will be ready to take on a PA role but will still have the flexibility to move to one to thrive in what can be a hectic environment? Will you be a team player? Are you highly organised, youthful and able to control to see a problem? If so, this is a first rate opportunity to work in a popular industry. Shorthand necessary though not often used. 50 wpm MSWord & Excel.

ANDERSON HOARE

0171 824 8821

### ROC

£18,000 + Benefits

Outgoing and confident Area Sales Co-ordinator National Telecoms Company Bonus, Pension Scheme, Health, Life, FST, BUPA Work as part of a team covering 3 regional offices supporting Sales Managers and their team. Provide full administrative support and liaise with field sales staff. 50wpm and Powerpoint are essential as is reliability, self-motivation and a positive attitude.

ROC Recruitment

### CENTRE POINT GROUP

BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

### Personal Assistant

£25,000

This city based high profile client is seeking a Personal Assistant with energy and enthusiasm to become part of their management team. Your typing and PC skills are as essential as your eye for detail and commitment to provide quality work. Shorthand would be an advantage.

For further details please call Avril Carr Tel: 0171 588 8888 Fax: 0171 588 8010 16 St Helens Place, London EC3A 6DP

### YES SAINT LAURENT

Young person with some experience in P.R. required for Yves Saint Laurent and Jasper Conran Menswear, based in West End. Please send C.V.'s in strict confidence to: Mrs E. Lewis, Yves Saint Laurent, 2 Berners Street, London W1P 4BA. JASPER CONRAN

### SECRETARY TO RUN OFFICE

Bright, enthusiastic secretary needed to run the office of a young, expanding banking company currently based near Kings Cross. Lots of potential to grow with the company. Office environment essential. Salary £16,000. Please send CV to: Kate Morley 0171 607 2074.

### ADMINISTRATOR WITH A DIFFERENCE

Consulting centre seeks organised, computer literate person with excellent telephone manner and people skills. You will be the first person clients call and manage appointments with customers, a diverse role which includes answering and processing enquiries, maintaining and updating of medical insurance claims and health insurance records. CV's and covering letter only to Helen, 2a Cromwell Place, SW7 3JU by 2 July.

### PA/BUSINESS PERSON

MD of Central London, substantial but young Sales and Marketing company requires outstanding PA/secretary to 'start up' a new division in telecommunications / property field based in Mayfair. Applicants ideally aged 25-35 yrs. Sound administration, personal skills and hard work ethic. Salary negotiable, a sense of humour and a willingness to travel. Excellent package. Call 0171 873 2022.

### PA/Secretary to Run W1 Office

Bright and enthusiastic PA sought to run the office of a small expanding new firm. Trademark in Wall Street and basic bookkeeping. Salary £16,000. CV to: Neilson & Co 19 Albemarle St, London W1. Fax: 0171 493 0146

### PA/SECRETARY

To the Sales Director of a specialist food company in Farnham. Must be flexible, have a good telephone manner and enjoy working in a sales environment and using own initiative. Please send your CV to: Laura Morris-King, W.G. White Ltd, 650 River Gardens, North Farnham Trading Estate, Farnham, TW14 0RS

### Dental Practice Manager

required to co-ordinate a busy N/S/private dental surgery in Camden Town NW1. Salary neg. Call Lynn on 0171 3866108/9665.

### CHelsea SECRETARIAL VACANCY

Young energetic lady Chelsea estate agency requires enthusiastic secretary/professional administrative Assistant. Flexible package + bonus. Tel: John Day 0171 370 4288.

### SECRETARY

Private Catering and Party Organising Co. requires secretary. good basic skills with ability to work in busy, rapidly expanding company. Fun, friendly, young office, salary negotiable. Please call Joanna on 0171 401 2288.

All Box number replies should be addressed to: BOX No. 3553, The Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA

### SENIOR SECRETARY

TO £25K + BENS Sounds too good to be true in a prime West End location this Asset Management Company require a Secretary aged 25-40 max. to work for the top men Lots of presentations, running the office in his absence and juggling constantly changing priorities. Overline will be required but I think you are the one! Hours 8.30-6.00, lovely offices, fabulous colleagues - Call Anna NOW!

### ABSOLUTELY PR DARLING

£18K MINS + BENS We currently have fabulous secretarial opportunities within a young, dynamic PR company based in Holland. If you are flexible to erratic hours, committed, have a good sense of humour, excellent WPM knowledge and happy to work hard and play even harder - Call Catherine NOW!

### BANK BENS - NO LONG HOURS!

£16K + BENS If you want all the perks that working in a bank can offer but don't fancy working all the hours God sends, then this Asset Management Company could be for you! Lots of variety, no heavy pressure and a life after work are on offer if you have 50wpm typing, WPM and are a real team player - Call Corinne for an immediate interview!

### RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR

Small W1 Business Psychologists. We are seeking a special person with a warm, professional telephone manner to look after senior clients, to administer psychological tests and to support our professional practice through day-to-day administration. Serenite, curious, well organised and mature in outlook you will be our front line in providing the highest quality customer service. You should have office experience including basic skills in typing and data input (Word & Excel). Hours 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Salary £13,000 + profit share.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ OFFICE MANAGER

We are a Canadian Telecommunications company located in SW1. We are offering a rare opportunity for an individual to be involved in and learn about the Telecommunications business. The role involves an above average working environment with excellent opportunity for personal development.

### MAGAZINE/EVENTS ADMINISTRATOR

£16K to £18K Richmond Dynamic IT research and publishing company requires a bright individual to support its editorial/advertising/events teams. Excellent admin/organisational skills, audio and Microsoft Office are essential plus the confidence to run the office and liaise with people at all levels.

### SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER

Kyowa Hako UK Ltd. (Japan owned pharmaceutical company) seeks: Self-starter, confident secretary to work as office manager and main stay in our UK head office (Basing).

### WANTED SECRETARY WITH SHORTHAND

for Director of small London office in P.M. Mail. The business is property management.

### SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

PARIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - £32,500

A rare opportunity to work at the hub of a major PLC in the office of the Group Chief Executive who is based in Paris. Operating on a world-wide basis the Group in its field and this pivotal role calls for a decision maker who is both assertive and diplomatic with very strong organisational and administrative abilities. Experience at the very highest level is a prerequisite together with fluency in French and willingness to travel. Age 30+.

### SECRETARY

Self sufficient, confident secretary to work in a small firm of Chartered Surveyors close to Bond Street / Oxford Circus. Excellent knowledge of WPM 7.5 required with 65 wpm + audio skills, excellent spelling grammar. A good telephone manner. Candidates to have experience, preferably in a similar position. £16K AAC 4 weeks holiday and season ticket loan. C.V.'s and hand written covering letter to: Mr D. Martin, Cooper Martin, 2/2 Woodland Street, London W1H 1YD. No agencies or telephone enquiries please.

### BORED SECRETARIES

If you are looking for an opportunity to move away from secretarial, join Fennell's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management business taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Move to a well equipped, hard working, home in great areas of London, stand comp skills, car driver. Salary £18,000. Tel: 0171 873 2044.

### PA/SECRETARY

Self sufficient, confident secretary to work in a small firm of Chartered Surveyors close to Bond Street / Oxford Circus. Excellent knowledge of WPM 7.5 required with 65 wpm + audio skills, excellent spelling grammar. A good telephone manner. Candidates to have experience, preferably in a similar position. £16K AAC 4 weeks holiday and season ticket loan. C.V.'s and hand written covering letter to: Mr D. Martin, Cooper Martin, 2/2 Woodland Street, London W1H 1YD. No agencies or telephone enquiries please.

4 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050















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Fax:  
0171 782 7586

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

The Fun starts here...  
£17,000 + gym membership

Find out why you should consider us as your recruitment partner. We are a leading recruitment agency, with a proven track record in the recruitment industry. We are looking for a Secretary/PA to join our team. The role involves administrative support, including typing, filing, and answering the phone. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, a gym membership, and a flexible working arrangement. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
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Studio Style - TV Reception  
£16 - 18,000 + Bonus + Bupa

This is a fantastic opportunity for a TV receptionist. The role involves answering the phone, taking messages, and dealing with the public. The successful candidate will be a friendly, efficient, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, a bonus, and Bupa. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

THE LIFE OF LUXURY IN SW1  
A Swiss Receptionist £16,000 + healthcare + bonus

This is a fantastic opportunity for a Swiss receptionist. The role involves answering the phone, taking messages, and dealing with the public. The successful candidate will be a friendly, efficient, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, healthcare, and a bonus. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Uxbridge, Middlesex  
MD's PA  
up to £18,000 + 25 days holiday + pension + parking

This is a fantastic opportunity for a MD's PA. The role involves administrative support, including typing, filing, and answering the phone. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, 25 days holiday, a pension, and parking. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Travel the world...USA, Australia, Far East  
as a true PERSONAL ASSISTANT!  
up to £28,000 + Bonus

This is a fantastic opportunity for a Personal Assistant. The role involves administrative support, including typing, filing, and answering the phone. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, a bonus, and the opportunity to travel the world. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**Aldrich & Company**

OFFICE MGR / PA  
£23,000 + (Plus Bens)

For a blue chip financial institution. Banking exp useful. Strong secretarial and organisational skills and flexible / friendly attitude essential.

...PA - PARIS BASED  
PA to Chairman. Fluent French required. Call Emily Aldrich.

CITY RECRUITMENT  
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

**Aldrich & Company**

OFFICE MANAGER  
£23,000 + Bens

You will be in your 30's, able to manage budgets, be highly organised and used to planning and working on confidential projects. Must be numerate and PC literate. This new vacancy within HR in a leading international investment bank is a fabulous role for a highly energetic, "ideas" person with experience in this field. Age 30's. Call Sarah Turnbull.

CITY RECRUITMENT  
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

**Aldrich & Company**

SENIOR PA - FUND MANAGEMENT  
£28,000 + Bens

Get totally involved - this high profile company will expect you to make decisions, liaise with overseas offices and supervise staff. A young team player with Director level experience essential for a very challenging role. Lots of organising, admin and client contact for a high-flyer who enjoys a fast pace. Call Alex Gaze.

CITY RECRUITMENT  
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

**Aldrich & Company**

COME AND TEMP FOR US NOW!

Immediate opportunities for professional secretaries to work for major Investment Banks in the City. Top rates for jobs on the trading floor, HR and in capital markets. If you are hardworking with a flexible attitude call Kim St John. You could be working tomorrow.

CITY RECRUITMENT  
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Forget stress... start a new life!  
£18,000 + STL + 22 days holiday

This is a fantastic opportunity for a Secretary/PA. The role involves administrative support, including typing, filing, and answering the phone. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and motivated individual. We offer a competitive salary, STL, and 22 days holiday. If you are interested, please contact us on 0171 782 7586.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 9JP  
Telephone: 0171 782 7586 Fax: 0171 782 7586

**START YOUR CAREER WITH A BANG!**

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL

are having a "Cheese & Wine Evening"

THURSDAY 26TH JUNE 1997  
FROM 5PM - 7.30PM  
at  
2-5 Old Bond Street  
St James's House  
London W1

Join us for a drink and an informal chat regarding your career.

Please call for an appointment: 0171 499 5406

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES TOP RATES LONG / SHORT TERM**

Our prestigious corporate clients, based in the West End and City require top quality executive secretaries. If you have 55wpm typing, and good knowledge of Microsoft Office we are really interested in seeing you. Please call the team, Hazel Neale or Rachel Huggins on 0171 408 0424 for an interview. E-mail: info@tate.co.uk

Web: <http://www.tate.co.uk>

**Tate**  
TEMP SPECIALISTS

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# A warranty, but not a guarantee

After a long history of complaints, culminating in a hard-hitting *Face the Facts* investigation on Radio 4 last month, the National House-Building Council is reviewing its services.

Its much-vaunted ten-year warranty is often thought to be a guarantee, but it does not amount to that, as hundreds of house-buyers discover each year.

The warranty says that a house will be completed to certain standards; that in the first two years it is the builder's responsibility to put right certain faults; and that thereafter unforeseen structural problems will be dealt with. But none of this guarantees a problem-free home.

The NHBC is an insurance company. Builders who wish to be registered pay an annual fee and are vetted. Once approved, they are entitled to offer the ten-year warranty, which is issued once the NHBC is satisfied that a house meets its standards.

Some time after Jane Fitzgerald and David Perryman bought a new £115,000 house in Hertfordshire, huge cracks appeared in the walls. It was deemed virtually worthless in this condition.

And when George McDonald and his wife moved from Surrey to a new "dream" bungalow in Woodbury, Devon, faults were found in the roof, walls, floor, porch and boiler flue.

Both couples bought from builders registered with the NHBC, assuming that its ten-year warranty protected them from defects and costs involved in rectifying any major problems.

But the misery suffered by Ms Fitzgerald as she and Mr Perryman fought to get their money back, and the McDonalds as they tried to have the faults put right, illustrates that many people have misinterpreted the NHBC's warranty, according to *Face the Facts*. More than 1.7 million home-buyers rely on the warranties.

The faults in the McDonalds' bungalow were spotted by a former clerk of works who visited the house to discuss a tiling job. John Waite, the presenter of *Face the Facts*, says: "What followed was a long dispute over who was

**Eve-Ann Prentice takes a close look at the protection offered by the NHBC**

responsible for what, in which the NHBC arranged for the builder to put some of the faults right, but not others.

The builder had been the subject of County Court judgments, as well as enforcement action by the local council. "When we telephoned the NHBC," Mr Waite added, "just as any member of the public might, an official confirmed that the builder concerned continued to be registered with the council. Only when we telephoned again and said we were from *Face the Facts* did the NHBC reveal that the builder is suspended from

**'The front porch was coming away from the rest of the house'**

registering new homes for NHBC warranties while a complaint is investigated.

The NHBC keeps files at its headquarters in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, on all warranty claims made against NHBC-registered builders. The information is used to calculate the premiums charged to builders, who are graded from A1 to D4, but this information is not available to the public. As part of its review, the NHBC is considering publishing a blacklist of builders who have been expelled from its register.

Ms Fitzgerald and Mr Perryman discovered the huge cracks in their home 18 months

after moving in. Ms Fitzgerald says: "The front porch was coming away from the rest of the house. You could see studs coming through from the partitioning, and the stairwell was coming away from the landing."

The problems lay with the foundations and the couple asked for their money back. But at first neither the NHBC nor the builders were willing to buy back the house. It was only when the local council's valuation department decided that the home was "not worth a single brick", according to Mr Waite, that the NHBC agreed to buy the house back. "The experience left me feeling as if the NHBC was set up to protect the builder," says Ms Fitzgerald.

Michael Lovegrove of the Insurance Ombudsman's Bureau told *Face the Facts* that many people believe that if anything goes wrong "they have this NHBC guarantee", as some people refer to it. But it is not a guarantee and it does not cover all those things that can go wrong with a house within ten years from the date of its being built, far from it.

The NHBC promotes itself by saying that it offers "security and peace of mind". Since April this year, its warranty has been extended to cover the "external envelope of a building" including permanent roof coverings, tiling and rendering.

As part of the review, the NHBC's new chief executive, Imtiaz Farooki, has been holding talks with groups such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Council of Mortgage Lenders and homeowners' representatives.

A spokeswoman, Elizabeth Male, says: "We are undertaking a major review of what could and should be done to protect people from cowboy builders and defective work. The cases reported in *Face the Facts* are all in the past and have been resolved."

"The warranty is not a guarantee. It does not pretend to be something it is not. We are sorry that *Face the Facts* reported interesting issues in a negative way. We are looking at all aspects of the industry to see where things can be improved."



After the initial euphoria of moving into her new house, Helen Bradford's heart sank: it soon became clear that it had many faults

## It'll be lovely when it's finished

**Helen Bradford bought a dream home, but it turned into a nightmare**

A FEW weeks ago I moved into a brand new house. The experience has left me with very mixed feelings.

When my husband and I started to look for a property, having accepted an offer on ours only four days after it went on the market, we thought we did not have much to choose from.

We wanted a four-bedroom house, and to stay in the area if we could, for the sake of our children's schooling. As time passed, we became increasingly demoralised. Three weeks after receiving the offer on our house, and as a last-ditch attempt, we looked at a small new development close by. Only one four-bedroom house remained for sale.

Neither of us felt we were particularly "new house" people, but we were shown around an empty property similar to the one still for sale. We fell in love with it. The house had some redeeming features, such as a cast-iron tiled

Victorian fireplace complete with chimney and the possibility of a real fire.

The house is double-fronted, something I had always desired. The back garden was a good size, and the huge front garden had three trees with a preservation order on them. We were sold.

The house was part of a group billed as luxury family homes built to a very high specification. We were able to choose our kitchen and pick the colour of the bathroom suites, tiles, walls and carpets, which were included in the sale price. It all seemed to be working out beautifully.

Then we moved in. After the initial euphoria, my heart sank. We started in the kitchen. The gas hob did not work, there was a large scratch in the wood of one of the kitchen drawers and similarly

on one of the unit doors. In the lounge, the fireplace had been dented. And so it continued.

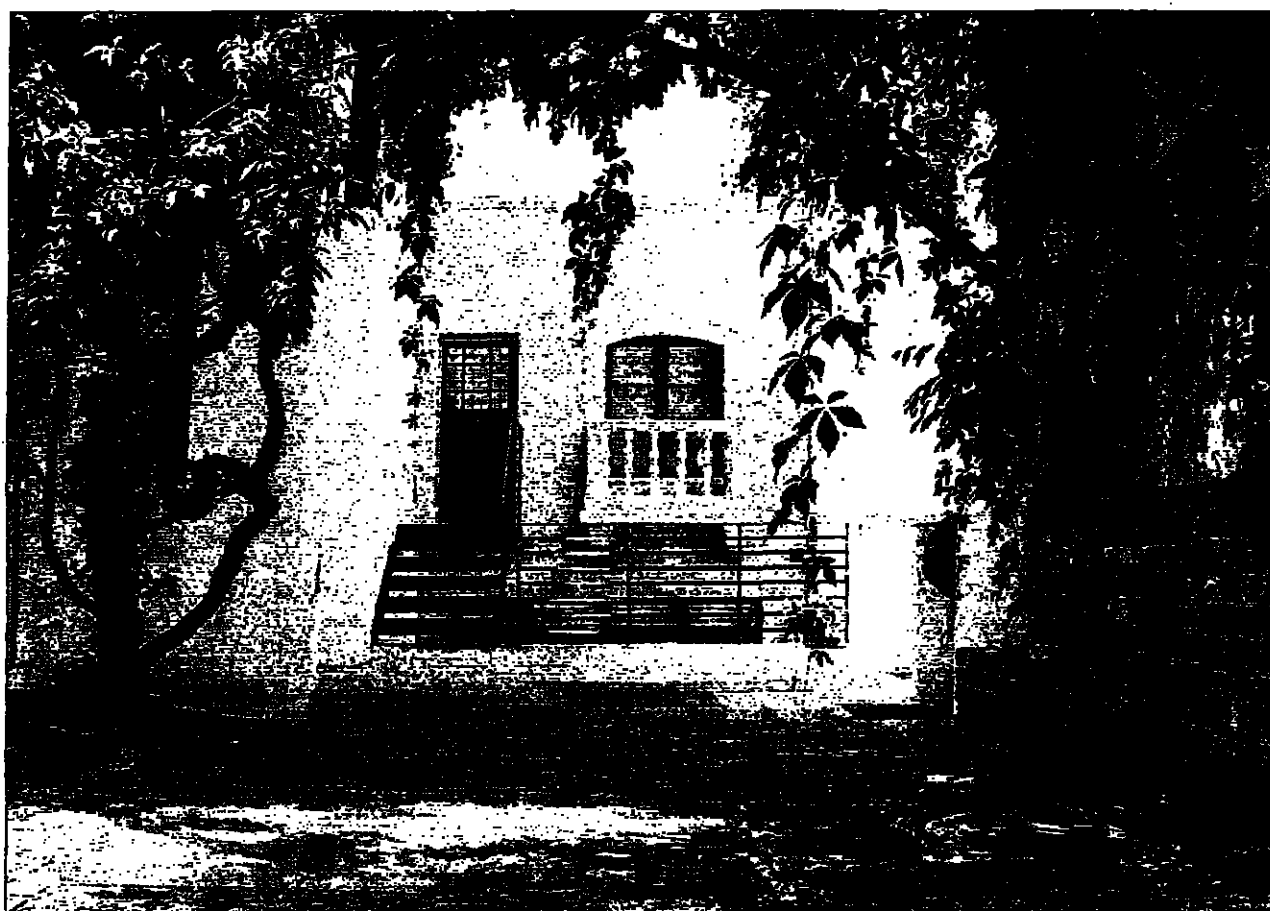
We moved in on a Wednesday. By Friday evening, we had had nothing but workmen in and out of the house. We felt exhausted and disillusioned and were unjustly cross with the children (who loved their new home and settled in straight away). We had paid a lot of money for this house, but it was obvious it had gone up too fast. This was a rush job.

We woke up on Saturday morning to find a wet hall ceiling. The bathroom and landing carpets were soaked. There was no one on site to call, and the thoughtfully provided emergency number was only available Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 12.30pm. We called our own plumber; the shower in our bed-

room was leaking. He told us the tiles would have to be removed but he could stop the leak temporarily. I lay on the bed and wept.

The shower is now mended and we are feeling more at home as we unpack. We plan to let our children grow up here, so in the long run these initial blips will probably become distant memories. But even today I am having a new front door fitted and new internal french windows (virtually every single pane of glass on the originals was scratched).

I will need to have a painter in to put right all the messy paintwork—some areas still have only primer on them. There are other things we are unhappy about but we have run out of energy to complain, and have decided to sort them out in our own time. I am sure we will be happy here, and any new house always takes time to become a home. But it would have been nice to have been alone as a family to make it our own.



A distinctive modern home, South Pavilion in Danbury Street, NI, is hidden behind Islington's busy thoroughfare

## The pond in the basement

A house with a pale pink marble facade and a Japanese-style pond would be unusual anywhere in London, but in Islington, where most houses are like the one being sold by Tony Blair, it is outstanding. The South Pavilion in Danbury Street, NI, is, nonetheless, discreet. It is well hidden in a walled courtyard off the terrace and were it not for an arch on to the street, might be missed even by the post. The house, just behind Camden Passage, is being sold by Hugh Grover Associates for offers around £425,000. It was built by a local builder two years ago on the site of a hat factory. The house's owner, the editor of the *News of the World* (published by News International), is selling because he wants a family home. This is a house for a single person or a couple without children.

The house's exterior—the effect of the pink marble is muted, more like faded terracotta than fuchsia—betrays its impressive interior dimensions. The entrance is on the

**Katherine Bergen uncovers an inner-city haven in pink marble**

first floor, via steps and a steel bridge over the pond, which is set beneath it on the lower ground floor.

A spare bedroom and bathroom open off a passage which leads in to the main living space and a 35ft stretch of beech floor. It is not impossible, given the floor space and the height of the ceiling in this room, to imagine having an indoor game of tennis here, or at least a spot of badminton. On this floor and downstairs, where there is equivalent space, the rooms have been built with large windows.

A skylight at the top of the house lights both floors through a central light-well, that, on the main floor, is

surrounded by a balcony. Another special feature is the integrated Bang & Olufsen music system—for which buyers will have to negotiate. The property's emphasis is the huge reception rooms, for both bedrooms are relatively modest in size. The master bedroom, looking out on to the Japanese pond, is 14ft by 12ft, although specially designed fitted cupboards with glass doors give the room a clean, uncluttered look to it.

The house is built for entertainment, entertain. From the dining area downstairs glass doors lead to a small internal courtyard, in which you meet a statue of Botticelli's Birth of Venus.

An iron staircase leads you up to a roof terrace. Even from this

position the house is not overlooked by another, so carefully has it been designed for privacy.

• Hugh Grover Associates, 0171-226 1010

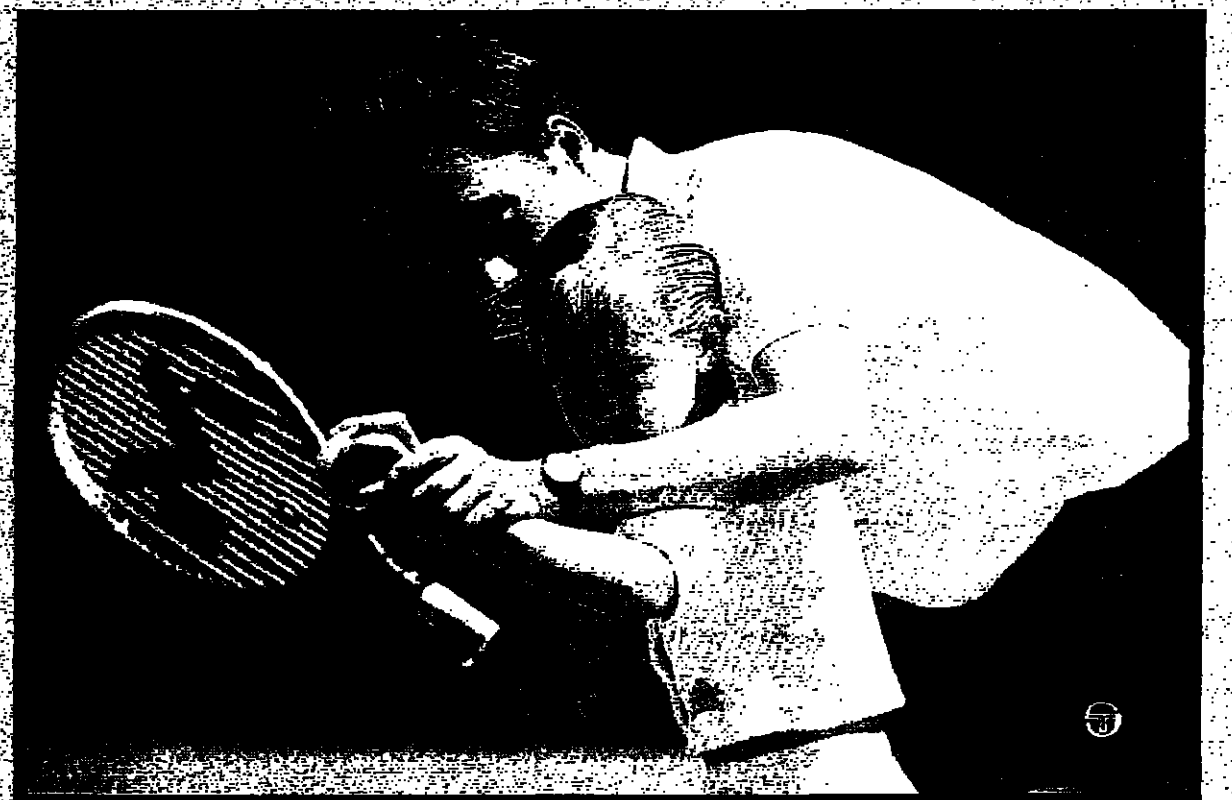


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CRICKET: SHAH AND HEWITT COMBINE FORCES TO STEER MIDDLESEX TO NARROW VICTORY AMID RISING TENSION AT LORD'S

# Kent succumb to youth movement

By JOHN THICKNESSE

LORD'S (Kent won toss): Middlesex beat Kent by three wickets

KENT, a bowler short, fought hard to defend a total of 20 or 30 runs short of par in this NatWest Trophy first round tie at Lord's yesterday. But Middlesex, at one stage 195 for seven in pursuit of 226, were carried to an exciting win by two players of talent too young to be afraid.

Owais Shah, 18, and Jamie Hewitt, 21, the No 9, came together with 29 needed in six overs and passed the winning post with four balls left for play. Hewitt made the decisive hit, a raking four over mid-off to the pavilion.

It was a fine and sometimes stirring game, before a crowd of 6,000, and it was played in rising tension. Kent paid the price for that, a dilatory over-rate costing a fine of £440 for running two overs over the allotted time. Mark Ramprakash, captaining Middlesex coolly and inventively and scoring a classy 72, the day's highest score, won the man-of-the-match award.

Until Ramprakash fell to Fleming in the 44th over, bowled by a ball that bounced only half-stump high, Middlesex looked like winning in fair comfort. The winning post was only 80 runs away and because McCague had pulled a hamstring bowling his eleventh ball, Kent were down to four main bowlers.

Through Ramprakash, had been left without a stroke at two by the pace and lift of a great ball by McCague, and looked dangerously close to being leg-before at 27 and 43 to Ealham and Headley, his 72 was the innings of the day. He hit ten fours off 105 balls and his footwork all but took Strang out of the game.

Middlesex were 148 for four when they lost their captain and what followed bore out that, though the second Test was in effect only a two-day match, batsmen needed time to find their way on it because of its varied pace and bounce. Another strip was prepared, 20 yards closer to the Tavern.

But it became so saturated over the weekend that the captain was given the option of using the Test pitch, which they chose.

With Kent scenting half a chance, Marsh juggled his bowlers skilfully in frequent consultation with his senior players, and Middlesex's lower middle order was steadily eroded. Long, an off spinner and the makeshift bowler in this attack, saw Pooley well caught off a top-edged sweep, and in separate spells Headley had Brown leg-before, then bowled Johnson, as the score slipped to 195 for seven.

Kent's fielding, though, let them down. Shah and Hewitt picking up five crucial runs in fumbles as they scored the final 30 runs. Kent's dwindling chances ended in the 58th over when Shah, dancing down the pitch to drive, edged Long unstopably for four through the vacant slips.

Where Kent would have been without Long, Ealham and Fleming is no one's business. However, that was more due to the quality of Middlesex's outcricet than deficiencies in Kent's batting on a surface that could never quite be trusted. Long and Ealham added 97 for the fifth wicket to a parous 64 for four, and towards the end, Fleming, who took nine balls getting off the mark, pulled Hewitt for three successive sixes, and Johnson for a fourth into the Tavern, a 90-yard carry, while making 41 off 27 balls.



Bradford, who put on 50 for Lincolnshire's eighth wicket with Gouldstone, forces the ball away at Lincoln Lindum

## Adams welcomes Christmas gifts

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

LINCOLN (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire beat Lincolnshire by eight wickets

DERBYSHIRE appointed Phillip DeFreitas as their new captain yesterday, in succession to the departed Dean Jones, and won their preliminary round at the pleasant Lindum ground near the magnificent cathedral with an astonishing (and probably unparalleled) 41 overs to spare. Chris Adams won the man-of-the-match award for his unbeaten 71, which came from only 44 balls.

Adams finished the match with a

mighty straight six, his fourth, off Bradford. Earlier, he had struck Oakes over long-off and picked up a bowler with a delightful surname for a pair of sizes over mid-wicket. You could say that they were early Christmas presents.

Despite the recent upheaval at the club, which forced Jones's hand and has snared others in a web of disagreement and disapproval, the new captain maintains that the mood within the dressing-room is good. Cricketers, of course, prefer to play and to leave the power games to others, but there is no denying that the present situation is most peculiar.

Les Stillman, nominally the senior

coach, remains stripped of his colours and Andy Hayhurst is travelling around with the first XI, to whom he is barely superior. No doubt everything will come out in the wash. For the time being, club officials are offering nothing and saying little.

Lincolnshire never got a start after DeFreitas put them in. Devon Malcolm took two early wickets and Paul Aldred cleaned up the tail to finish with four. It took an eighth-wicket stand of 50 between Gouldstone and Bradford to extend the score into three figures and, although Owen and Rollins were out cheaply, Adams completed the match with a flurry of expansive strokes.

## Rollins closes chapter on rural romance

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BEACONSFIELD (Buckinghamshire won toss): Essex beat Buckinghamshire by 89 runs

IT IS 21 years since Essex lost to Hertfordshire in this competition and there are those at the county who remain twitichy about it. So, when they arrived on a similar club ground to find a damp pitch and a Rastafarian opening bowler in an immense white, woolen hat, a few suspicious looks were exchanged.

They need not have worried. The gulf between first-class cricket and the minor counties game has, perhaps, never been greater and Buckinghamshire could not bridge it. They competed valiantly, but any doubt about the result was removed when Robert Rollins struck 67 from 26 balls at the close of the Essex innings, regularly imperilling passing traffic on the A40.

The crowd was good and the atmosphere everything it should be on this midsummer day that is annually the province of rural romantics. It belongs to the trunors and I have long maintained they should all play at home and put on a show like this.

Beaconsfield have a tree-ringed ground, on green-belt land worth a fortune, and, by running colts sides down to the age of eight, they represent the value of clubs in the modern game. There was a jazz band playing from one of many marquees and Bill Giles had been recruited as announcer, presumably to guarantee fine weather.

Essex soon discovered that the chap in the startling headgear could bowl. Denzil Owen, a Jamaican truck-driver, is 41, but when his

seamers found the correct range, on a pitch inclined to sharp bounce, he commanded respect. Robinson fell to him without scoring, and both Prichard and Hussain were hit on the gloves. His first over spell cost only 40; a shame, for him, then, that his remaining two were to concede 41.

Not without difficulty, the second wicket raised 123 before a series of casual shots saw Essex decline to 172 for four at lunch. Hussain's 78, relatively circumspect but important in banishing whatever demons lurked in Essex minds, ended with a sharp catch by the beaming Owen.

Buckinghamshire, indeed, were catching everything that came their way and when Richard Hurd clung on to a fierce, flat on-drive from Danny Law, there was still a chance that Essex would be kept within bounds. Rollins banished the thought, hitting seven sixes and three fours.

There is never much chance of a minor county chasing 328 to win, especially against an attack of international pedigree, but Buckinghamshire went about it responsibly. As the approach, the second-wicket pairing of Neil Burns — once of Essex — and Matthew Bowyer was in full flow, Burns taking five fours from an over by Ronnie Irani.

Still to come was Keith Artherton, who had already taken four wickets and on whom much depended. His time in the West Indies side ended last year, however, after the World Cup, in which he scored 1, 0, 1, 0 and 0. He did not fare much better yesterday and the contest ended with his dismissal.

## Strength of Ecclestone takes toll

By JACK BAILEY

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): Somerset beat Herefordshire by 231 runs

THE knees of Mushtaq Ahmed have been a cause for concern to both Pakistan and Somerset, not to mention the player himself, for some time, yet his enthusiasm knows no bounds. Yesterday, he skipped round the field and plucked the heart out of the Herefordshire batting just as they looked like making rather better than a token response to Somerset's 367 for five.

Before Mushtaq's intervention, Herefordshire had displayed little sign of being overawed. They had fielded well in the face of an onslaught by Simon Ecclestone that brought him a century from 60 balls, having already stuck well to their task while Piran Holloway and Peter Bowler accumulated 168 from 33 overs.

With the help of a gritty innings by Rob Hall, Herefordshire were actually ahead of Somerset at the ten-over stage, but to cope with Mushtaq, you have to be able to read the goody and neither Barlow nor Hall could.

Neal Radford, formerly of Worcestershire and England, demonstrated that Mushtaq could be read and played by a seasoned professional, but the leg-spinner's four for 27 had already suppered his team by then. Not that this was enough to win the man-of-the-match award, and there were few grumbles when this went to Ecclestone. His was an innings of brutal power and it carried Somerset beyond reach.

## Zuiderent breathes defiance

By IVO TENNANT

WORCESTER (Holland won toss): Worcestershire beat Holland by 111 runs

IN SPITE of an excellent man-of-the-match innings of 99 by Bas Zuiderent, who last year made a half-century against England in the World Cup, Worcestershire and their Australian captain were simply too much for Holland yesterday. Tom Moody struck a typically beefy century that gave his side a near unassailable total.

Zuiderent, a 20-year-old student who plays for the FOC club in Rotterdam, wore a gleaming orange helmet as he

scored his runs off 141 balls, hitting ten fours and two sixes, the second of which, sent skimming over long-off, was his last scoring shot. He was run out by a direct throw from Spiring at mid-wicket, seeking the single that would have brought him a deserved century. It proved too risky.

Although Holland included Lefebvre, once of Somerset and Glamorgan and now a physiotherapist, they fielded a largely inexperienced side. Van Noordwijk added 96 in 25 overs with Zuiderent, but Goodwin, the Zimbabwean brought as their overseas player, went cheaply and no-

body else made a significant contribution.

Worcestershire made a total that would have been beyond the reach of most sides. Moody struck 108 off 145 balls including 14 fours. Spiring hit a vigorous half-century and Leatherdale, Haynes and Lampitt all contributed usefully to ensure that, once again, Holland would not progress beyond the first round.

Next year, it is hoped a tie will be staged at Amstelveen. Although Holland have not qualified for the next World Cup in 1999, they will be staging a fixture and can only continue to improve.

## Croft launches victory drive

By KEITH PIKE

CARDIFF (Bedfordshire won toss): Glamorgan beat Bedfordshire by seven wickets

IT IS 20 years since Glamorgan reached their one Lord's final and the emphatic nature of this victory is unlikely to persuade their supporters to dust off their gazetteers and inflatable leeks just yet. It will, though, take a decent side to eliminate them from the NatWest Trophy.

Bedfordshire left Sophia Gardens with their pride just about intact. They won the toss and two awards for bravery, through Phil Hoare's decision to bat first under an

overcast sky and then Gary Sandford, a No 10 of no obvious batting pedigree, who opted to face Waqar Younis steaming in from the Cathedral Road end without a helmet. Perhaps he had heard that a team representing the Blood Transfusion Service was in town.

They deserve credit, too, for posting a respectable total after slipping initially to 18 for three and later 111 for eight. Glamorgan, though, won pretty much as they liked with half of their overs unused and the tea still warm.

Bedfordshire were up against it from the second

over, when Wayne Larkins, who scored a career-best 252 on this ground, was trapped leg-before by Waikin for precisely 251 runs fewer. Five of the first six wickets fell the same way, thanks to straight bowling rather than any extravaganza movement. Had the last two wickets not eeked out 68 runs against some sloppy bowling, the end would have come quickly indeed.

Croft, having conceded 14 runs in a miserly spell, then showed his more extravagant nature in his one-day opener's role with a dashing 64 off 58 balls to launch Glamorgan on their way.

## Records fall to Wright and Trainor

By RUPERT COX

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Scotland by 101 runs

FOURTEEN years after making their debut in the NatWest Trophy, when they lost at Nevil Road by 88 runs, Scotland came south buoyed by their success in the ICC Trophy in March that assured them of a World Cup berth for 1999. This time, though, Gloucestershire, amid a flurry of records, ran amok, posting an imposing 351 for two.

Scotland's new-ball attack leaked only 24 runs from 12 overs, but, once they had survived early perils, Gloucestershire's openers, Tony Wright and Nick Trainor, thrived.

In adding 311 for the first-wicket, the pair broke a host of records. It was the highest partnership for any wicket in the competition, surpassing the 309 at the Oval in 1994 by Tim Curtis and Tom Moody, of Worcestershire, and transcended the first-wicket record of 269 by Hampshire's openers, Jason Lacey and John Stephenson, last summer.

Wright plundered 177 from 188 balls, his first century of the season comprising a six and 19 fours and equalling the fourth-best score in the competition. It also surpassed Gloucestershire's individual record of 158.

The target of 352 was always too stiff for an amateur side, but a valiant second-wicket stand of 135 between Bruce Patterson and Mike Smith guaranteed respectability. Tim Hancock snared six victims to emphasise the gulf between the teams.

## Cambridgeshire shot down in uneven duel

By PAT GIBSON

WISBECH (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire beat Cambridgeshire by 239 runs

IT WAS clear that this was not going to be Cambridgeshire's day from the moment that Flying Officer Chris Whybourn's radar went on the blink. His first four overs cost 30, including seven wides and a no-ball, and against such friendly fire from the opposition's main strike weapon, Hampshire were able to take off towards a total that was way out of range of a minor counties side.

In the end, Cambridgeshire went down without firing a shot in anger. Their spirit broken by a second-wicket stand of 176 between Matthew Hayden and Robin Smith that carried Hampshire to an intimidating 321 for four, they crumbled to 82 all out and one

of the heaviest defeats in the history of the NatWest Trophy.

Both John Stephenson, who took five for 34, and Shaun Udall, with three for 13, returned their best figures in the competition, but it was the batsmen who made victory a formality.

Jason Lacey set the pace, then Hayden and Smith took control. Both were dropped off the veteran, Tim Smith — taking time off from the farm where he breeds llamas and ostriches to bowl his left-arm spin as economically as anybody — and there was no stopping them after that. Hayden made 90 off 139 balls, hitting a six and seven fours, and Smith went on to claim the man-of-the-match award with 126 off a total of 134 balls, including two sixes and 12 fours.

## Shropshire appetites destroyed by Kirtley

By JAMES ALLEN

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Sussex beat Shropshire by ten wickets

ALTHOUGH Sussex did not hit the winning run until the first over after tea, they had effectively won this match by lunchtime when Shropshire, having been put in, had staggered to 79 for nine, undone by the pace and movement of James Kirtley.

The rest of the day seemed like an extended net, the routine nature of proceedings disturbed only by a spirited last-wicket stand between Shimmons and Bower, which yielded 37, and took Shropshire into three figures.

The Shropshire innings disintegrated when four wickets fell in the space of seven balls with the total 79. Kirtley took three in an over, having earlier accounted for Kevin

Sharp and Asif Din, on whose shoulders Shropshire's hopes rested so heavily. Visiting hearts sank when Asif lost his middle stump.

Kirtley, whose exploits for Mashonaland embarrassed England in the winter, finished with five for 39, his best figures in any form of cricket.

Although Asif Din, bowling his hybrid wrist spin, did not concede a run until his seventh over, Greenfield and Athey, the Sussex openers, found little to trouble them. Despite receiving a painful blow on the foot, Greenfield punished anything loose in making an attractive 59 while Athey played the straight man, a role he has perfected down the ages, although, by going 21 overs without scoring a run, he tried the patience even of some Sussex supporters.

## Robinson abbreviates cut-price spectacle

By RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire beat Staffordshire by ten wickets

THOSE waiting to take advantage of Nottinghamshire's offer of half-price admission after 4pm did not get the bargain they hoped for. The pavilion clock read 4.02pm when Tim Robinson nudged the ball studiously towards mid-on and jogged through for the winning single.

In their only previous meeting with Staffordshire 12 years ago, Nottinghamshire had been reduced to 53 for five — the finest top four in their history of Broad, Robinson, Randall and Rice contributing just 14 runs between them — before an unbeaten century by Paul Johnson removed the possibility of defeat. Despite the absence of Johnson to a

broken finger, there were no such worries yesterday.

Staffordshire began slowly, did not pass 50 until the 28th over and lost their last seven wickets for 22 runs on a quick pitch being used for the third successive game. Laurie Potter made the top score of 19 before diverting the second ball from Nathan Asle — David Steele's man of the match — to slip, while Ian Stokes spent 25 overs compiling 18.

Staffordshire have boasted Dominic Cork, Dean Headley and Paul Taylor among their past players, but even a bowling attack including all three would have struggled to defend a total of 95. Both Robinson and Paul Pollard were grateful for the batting practice and, with neither flamboyance nor struggle, they passed the target with 28.1 overs to spare.

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# Fabulous Greg lifts spirits after ritual sacrifice

Applause can take all sorts of forms. We are all familiar with the concept of rapturous, for example. Or restrained. The applause that greeted Clare Wood, of Britain, yesterday afternoon, as she entered Centre Court with Arantxa Sánchez Vicario for her inevitable damn good first-round thrashing, had an interesting tenor. Encouraging, you might call it, but more like that old familiar Wimbledon phenomenon — warm commiseration before the fact.

Poor Clare Wood. What a life. All those years learning how to tie a perfect French plait and then this happens. Wood is 29, apparently, and not on top form in any case, but she has every reason to curse the gods of tennis, who drew her in the first round against a foreign whizz-bang opponent that the crowd has loved dearly for yonks. Everyone loves Arantxa. A lot of it has to do with her resilient

personality and serious, beetle-browed expression, but mostly it is to do with her ingenious solution to the spare-ball problem, which lends her an air of bunny-rabbit.

Anyway, the crowd was very nice to Wood. In her second service game, she scored her first point of the match and the crowd let her know with a hearty cheer that, despite their polite silence over the matter, they had, after all, been keeping count. After that, she fought for her own service games with consistent dauntless pluck, but failed to win a single one. The humiliation of a Brit on Centre Court was, thus, duly performed in less than an hour and a sense of relief went round. The obligatory British blood sacrifice had been made to the gods of the chequered towel, leaving a nice little cosmic slipstream for Greg Rusedski to shimmy through.

Sorry to be so superstitious, but it is quite normal to look for signs

and wonders at an event like Wimbledon. It is normal to think in terms of hubris and all that. One of the great pleasures of watching tennis in the flesh, in fact, is that one is spared those wrath-inducing comments from the BBC telly Old Bore, who always make reckless predictions such as: "Well, nothing can stop Agassi now." — presumptions guaranteed to get the goat of Fate. "Don't say that, you Old Bore, don't you know what will happen?" I have railed at John Barrett for many years now, and before him, I railed at Dan Maskell, too. Watching matches free from their comments is a fabulous treat, well worth the price of admission.

What other signs boded well for Greg? Or dear old fabulous Greg, as one really ought to call him. Well, there was still no appearance from the enormous inflated strawberry I saw preparing itself in Wimbledon Park on Monday

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

morning. Perhaps fruit-impersonating hot-air balloons are not permitted air space over Wimbledon. Or perhaps someone ate it. Out among the milling crowds

before the Rusedski-Philippoussis game was resumed on Centre Court, I heard the dread word "Thunder" go round, but this proved a false alarm. The low distant rumble turned out to be efficient Wimbledon staff relocating wheelie bins on concrete.

On the subject of 'dear old fabulous Greg, I have to admit that formerly, in my sheer ignorance, I resented his charity. "We don't need your charity," I would declare roundly, trying not to cry. That, however, was before it became apparent that he is a really exciting British prospect and also an awfully nice chap with only a mild twinning fetish, who looks a bit like Kevin Costner. Philippoussis looks a bit like Johnny Depp, incidentally.

So, dear old fabulous Greg entered Centre Court to a rather different timbre of applause. If Wood's contained the sub-text "We'll still love you, you mustn't

worry", Greg's was "Hail Sun God, rise and lead thy people". The situation created an obvious problem, however: good sense required Greg to polish off Philippoussis with the minimum of fuss, whereas one's love of drama and fingernail-grawling required him to struggle through to five sets and win something fantastically hard. Good sense prevailed, dammit... I mean, thank God. How confusing. If one could say "Phew" and "Swizz" with the same breath, I'd do it.

Wimbledon is beginning to fall into place. The layout is getting clearer, distances are getting shorter and my principal concern is which dandy commemorative key-fob to buy from the Wimbledon Shop. One of them appears to incorporate a solid-gold tennis ball, which would be a little ostentatious. I have stopped trying to see everything

and keep up. The important thing, clearly, is to relax, eat ice cream and cruise the outer courts, stopping to watch a point here, a service-break there, or a wild Chilean contingent waving flags.

Going with the flow in such a manner, I had a pleasant five-minute wait outside the Playmeters Entrance and seeing nobody come in. "Are we waiting for anyone in particular?" I asked two middle-aged ladies with permis- "Oh no," they said, leaning heavily on the public barrier, "we were having a rest."

Later on, though, Helena Sukova strode past me on her way to No 3 Court and it was one of the most thrilling things that has happened for years. Pure Amazon, with eye contact. Good heavens. The fact that she was setting off to give a damn good thrashing to yet another hopeful Brit seemed only fitting in the circumstances.

## Becker hungry to recapture those moments of glory

BY ROB HUGHES

IT WOULD take a different kind of fool to the one writing this report to surmise that the days of Boris Becker bestirring Wimbledon are over. Yesterday, summoning up something approaching the power, the belief and the movement that made him the champion at the age of 17, the German, now 29, simply annihilated his first-round opponent, Marcos Aurelio Gorz.

The match was on No 2 Court, where history shows that many a champion has fallen. "It was never the graveyard for me," Becker announced afterwards. "That was the old No 1 Court — and Wimbledon has done me the favour of digging that one up."

Almost serene as the sun shone on that intimate outside court yesterday, Becker, after parading with the greats at the opening of the new No 1 Court on Monday — Rod Laver *et al.* began again to look awesome. Winning in straight sets 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, he showed up the Catalan for what he is — a day-court pretender, who is ranked No 173 in the world. At the age of 33, Gorz is not going to improve and neither is the ratio of his bank balance compared to that of Becker, who was accumulated \$24 million from play alone.

Becker consumed Gorz. His serve was too severe, his anticipation too quick, his all-court knowledge far too consummate. Becker took a look at the Spaniard for six games then broke him on the seventh. In the second set, he broke twice and in the third almost

at will as he upped the tempo to emphasise the gulf in class, finishing off Gorz virtually at his leisure.

If the test of his tennis was a feeble one and Becker's 109th victory on grass — more than any contemporary player — came all too easily, he can hardly be blamed for that.

I, for one, was delighted to find him on a court where you could almost stretch out and touch the contestants, hear every sound they made and see, in Becker, the complete athlete, in both body and mind.

The right wrist, in which he ruptured a tendon while in action on court one at Wimbledon last year, is as firm as he needs it to be. After dipping to eighteenth in the rankings during an injury-plagued last 12 months, his confidence is returning.

"I feel pretty good" he said after yesterday's victory. "That was a good first round, because first rounds usually come more difficult than that, especially when everything is new. As long as I am in tennis, in a very, very competitive way, I feel I have a chance to win Wimbledon."

"It depends on the draw, on the weather... but in my mind I think I have a chance on grass against anybody. I am not looking ahead to the next rounds, just to what I feel in myself."

And that is ominous, like Vesuvius ready to erupt. You can sense in the grey eyes, and in the way he moves around the place that this man is

ready to boom again. Man? He is a veritable industry. Said to be worth £60 million, he has brought to London a whole entourage of helpers, of family, of medical experts. He was visibly moved, proud beyond his recollection, to be part of the opening ceremony of the new court one.

"Yes, I was deeply honoured. I had lunch with Rod Laver, John McEnroe and Margaret Court. When I started playing tennis, I never expected to be in that group, and to do it while I still have things to win in my career is a wonderful feeling."

He has this year, possibly next, to win his fourth Wimbledon title. He is attempting to extend a sequence that began 12 years ago, and which, some people thought, ended when he last won the crown in 1989.

Yet, can this be the same individual who seven years ago mused: "I would like to be as free as the people out there" referring to a group of squatters in Hamburg.

"I don't want to be an idol for others, I just want to be a private person, allowed to live my life my way."

Now with a young son, Noah, for whom he would like to provide a vision of his father in triumph, Becker has reappraised his priorities.

Pete Sampras may be the one individual who could give him a real game if he truly regains the near unbeatable power and spirit that made him a champion for the Eighties.

## Hingis wriggles out of a tight corner



Simon Barnes sees

the women's No 1

seed get off to an

unconvincing start

Not much rain about yesterday for a change, but plenty of heavy weather, most of it being made by the No 1 seed, Martina Hingis. First-round matches for the top seed in the women's tournament are supposed to be 40-minute jobs, perhaps a few minutes less if you are playing a qualifier.

But Anne Kremer, a 21-year-old Luxembourgish, chose the policy of having a good old whack at everything that moved, went for the lines uninhibitedly and, with just a fraction more nerve, would have won this match in straight sets.

Instead, Hingis won 6-4, 6-4 and could count herself lucky. It did not look like the performance of a future champion, that is for sure — which is a pity, in a way, because everything else about her is really rather splendid.

There was a buzz going about at the French Open that she had been putting on weight. Yesterday, she went to great pains to show us all that if there was indeed any additional weight, it is all disposed in perfectly appropriate places. She wore a little dress, you see, with little slashes of cherry and peppermint.

And it was tight in the places where it touched her, which was most places. She was all turned out in her best party frock, in short, and looking a picture — but it turned out to be a perfectly rotten party.

Hingis is 16, the world No 1 and seems to have managed the whole thing by treating tennis as if it were just a game. Hard to imagine, I know. Even yesterday, there were moments when she glowed with humour and delight.

That is her gift. Most teenage prodigies are haunted people, disturbing to those who watch them, though not



Hingis's frustration is evident during her stuttering performance against Kremer

quite as disturbing as those that manipulate them: the tennis parents, the bullying coaches, the *louche* hitting partners.

Hingis, even when rather vexed, not to say perplexed, yesterday, still managed to give the impression that it was all rather a hoot. There is none of the usual "I am a self-made teenage millionaire and it is all perfectly ghastly" about her.

No, she seems to think that

becoming rich beyond most people's wildest dreams by playing flat games with furry balls is just about the jolliest thing that could happen to a girl. She is famous for her extracurricular activities, the rollerblading and the horse riding.

In fact, there was a piece in *Horse and Hound* magazine, shortly after she had fallen from a horse, damaged her knee and had to scratch from a tennis tournament, in which

Hingis was put forward as Young Rider of the Year. I know. I wrote it. Horses are a good way of keeping sane and a tremendously effective method of making sure that you never get above yourself.

Above all, horses give a sense of perspective. All world champions should fall off horses on a regular basis for the good of their souls. And probably for the good of their long-term prospects in the

sport that they play professionally, too.

Hingis has been up on the top deck of a horse since her defeat in the final of the French Open and very good it was to be back, she said. Her own verdict on yesterday's performance was less fulsome — a touch less honest, too. "Not bad for my first match on grass this year," she said. There was a touch of ruefulness about the otherwise radiant smile. The smile is almost a reflex response with her. She has the knack — Frankie Dettori is one of the few other people who has it — of making people, even after the briefest contact, feel better pleased with their place in the world.

Yet the tennis side of things looked distinctly ropey yesterday. She said it is always harder to play a qualifier, because they have just got through three matches on grass. Hingis, instead of practicing on grass, has been resting her horse's knee and riding horses. Good for

'She managed to give the impression that it was all a hoot'

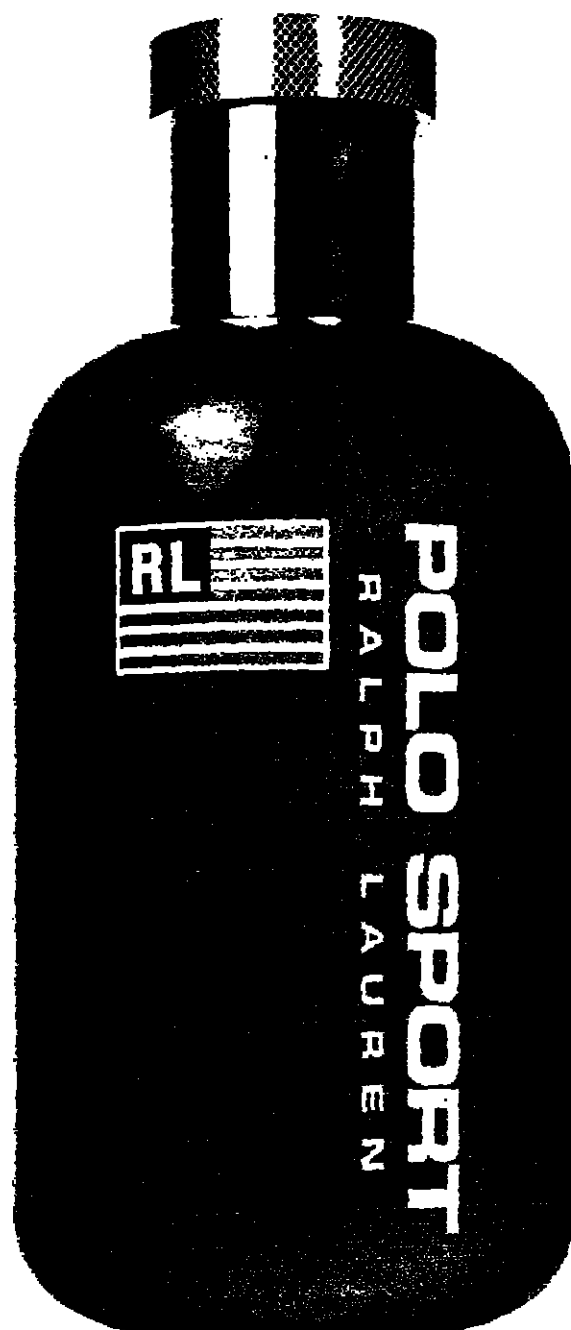
the nerves, bad for the grass-court game.

She looked a world-beater when the ball was in the air, but off the ground, her timing was slightly off and she was constantly over-hitting. "Not used to the lack of bounce, simply enough. If she once finds her range, she will be a real proposition here. "I could be even more aggressive," she said. "I need to feel confident so I can step in and volley."

But there is not all that much serve to come in behind, so opportunities must be crafted by other means. Her overhead shots are a joy to watch and she was beginning to reclaim the joys of the grass-court drop-shot: the ball that hits the turf like a shot budgee.

She is a wonderful player with a wonderfully instinctive grasp of tactics and you would be daft to say that she could not possibly win. For sure, she won't win if she plays like this and it will be a bit of shock if she can improve dramatically enough to win. But then what is the point of being a jolly normal 16-year-old millionaire if you don't go about shocking people?

THE FINEST FRAGRANCE BY RALPH LAUREN



## Mild Tarango goes out with a whimper

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JEFF TARANGO, the 29-year-old American absent from Wimbledon last year after being banned the year before, went out in the first round yesterday. Despite winning the first set, he was beaten 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-4 by Rodolphe Gilbert, a qualifier from France.

Tarango rose to prominence in 1995 when he stormed off court in the middle of a match and accused Bruno Rebeuh, the match umpire, of favoritism. His wife, Benedicte, then slapped Rebeuh. Tarango was on generally good behavior yesterday, with only a few outbursts over line calls. The match was played on No 4 Court, apparently because of its proximity to the office window of Alan Mills, the head referee.

Tarango's wife sat passively beside the court and said little. His father, Bob, sat alongside and offered only mild encouragement.

In a match that was extended over two days after a rain delay, Tarango's first-day behaviour was impeccable. With

play going well, he was even polite to the ball girls as he flicked them loose balls with his racket.

Tarango became frustrated yesterday, however, after losing the third set to a tiebreak. "That's five overrules today against me," he shouted on a disputed line call as he was going down in the fourth set. "That's five, look it up in the computer."

However, it was all mild stuff for a player who once dropped his shorts in a match in Tokyo. At the French Open last month, Thomas Muster had refused to shake his hand after a series of taunts from the American.

Tarango turned down interview requests after the match, but his father — anxious to clear his son's name — spoke for him. "It was ugly what happened two years ago," Bob Tarango said. "It was unfortunate, one of those things that happens in the heat of battle in sports. Jeff and his wife are really great people, but Jeff is a person who wears his heart on his sleeve."

## RESULTS FROM THE ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles  
Winner: £415,000  
Runner-up: £207,500  
Holder: R Krajcek (Hol)

First round

P SAMPRAS (US) bt M Tilmann (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2  
H Dierkorn (Ger) bt P Frohmann (Swe) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3  
M RIOS (Chn) bt M Bhupathi (Ind) 6-4, 6-3  
D van Schuyck (Hol) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4  
J von Lohse (Hol) bt D Stanichov (Bul) 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3  
T Johnston (Swe) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1  
B BECKER (Ger) bt M Gomez (Sp) 6-2, 6-3, 6-3  
Y KRAJEK (Cze) bt J A Mann (Sp) 6-4, 6-2, 6-0  
N Kubi (Swe) bt M Sinner (Ger) 7-6, 6-2, 6-0  
J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt O Rumeau (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3  
N Kiefer (Ger) bt A Volkov (Rus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3  
A MEDVEDEV (Ukr) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4  
P RASTNER (Aus) bt G Stallard (SA) 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2  
J Kriepsteiner (Ger) bt W McGuire (US) 6-4, 6-4  
M Manzel (Fr) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1  
M Ondruska (SA) bt S Schallan (Hol) 3-6, 7-5, 6-0, 6-1  
C Wilkerson (GB) bt J BJOROMAN (Swe) 7-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4  
M Woodbridge (Aus) bt L Paez (Ind) 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2  
A Clomard (Fr) bt L Milligan (GB) 2-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2  
E Alvaraz (Sp) bt K Carsten (Den) 6-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2  
S Stolle (Aus) bt C Woodall (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-1  
M Stich (Ger) bt J Courier (US) 7-6, 7-5, 7-6  
J Gonsky (US) bt G KUERTEN (Fr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2  
J Gormley (Fr) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2

T Larkham (Aus) bt S Doraschi (Cz) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5  
P Haidt (Hol) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-1, 6-2, 7-6  
F Claydon (Sp) bt N Laporte (Esp) 7-5, 6-1, 6-3  
D Rini (Cz) bt D Vack (Cz) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3  
G Ruzicki (GB) bt M PHILIPPOUSSIS (Aus) 7-5, 7-6, 6-3  
J Stark (US) bt S Huet (Fr) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2  
D Rich (US) bt B Blood (Aus) 6-1, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4  
G Rague (Fr) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-2, 6-4, 6-1  
R A Remberg (US) bt H Alcazar (Mex) 7-6, 6-4, 7-6  
W FERREIRA (SA) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-6  
T Gilbert (Fr) bt J Tarango (US) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-4  
C Pabian (Fr) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2  
F Pottinger (Den) bt J Novak (Cz) 4-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4  
M Norman (US) bt L E Herrera (Mex) 7-6, 6-1, 6-4

Women's singles  
Winner: £373,500  
Runner-up: £186,750  
Holder: S Graf (Ger)

First round

M HINGIS (Swe) bt A L Kremer (Lux) 6-4, 6-4  
O Suklanachachova (P) Begerow (Ger) 6-3, 6-3  
L M Raymond (US) bt E Martincova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2  
N J Arnold (US) bt P Langrova (Cz) 6-2, 6-0  
L Colares (Br) bt A Dechamps-Balleret (Fr) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3  
S Agapitova (Bel) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-2, 3-6, 6-0  
A Frazier (US) bt S Cade (US) 7-5, 6-4  
B SCHULTZ-McCARTHY (Hol) bt S Farnes (Br) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2  
A Goss (Ger) bt R DRAGOMIR (Rom) 5-7, 6-2, 10-8  
M Marozka (Aust) bt A Giers (Cz) 7-6, 6-2  
K M Cross (GB) bt L M Wood (US) 6-4, 6-2  
M Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp) bt P Perinetti (It) 6-4, 6-4  
G Fernandez (US) bt M Chelms (Hol) 7-6, 6-5  
N Datchy (Fr) bt L Couderc (Hol) 6-7, 6-1, 6-2  
E Medvedeva (Rus) bt T Panova (Rus) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3  
C MARTINEZ (Isr) bt K Habschova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-2  
Y Yoshida (Japan) bt R Hirai (Japan) 6-2, 6-3  
H Sukova (Cz) bt S A Sadok (GB) 7-6, 6-1  
A Kournikova (Rus) bt C Rubin (US) 6-1, 6-1  
B Rime (Ger) bt A-G Sidor (Fr) 7-6, 6-1  
J Kruger (SA) bt S de Ville (Swe) 7-6, 6-2  
A HUBER (Ger) bt H House (Aust) 6-3, 6-0  
A SCHNEIDER (SA) bt A Fuzal (Fr) 7-6, 6-1  
V Bandu (Ind) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-3, 6-0  
A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt C J Wood (GB) 6-0, 6-0  
K A Guler (Aus) bt K PO (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-2



Becker: former champion won in straight sets



Sacrifice

tight corner

RACING: SOUTHWELL AND HEXHAM AMONG BACKMARKERS IN HELPING PRIZE-MONEY TOTALS

Courses fall down on contributions

By Richard Evans  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

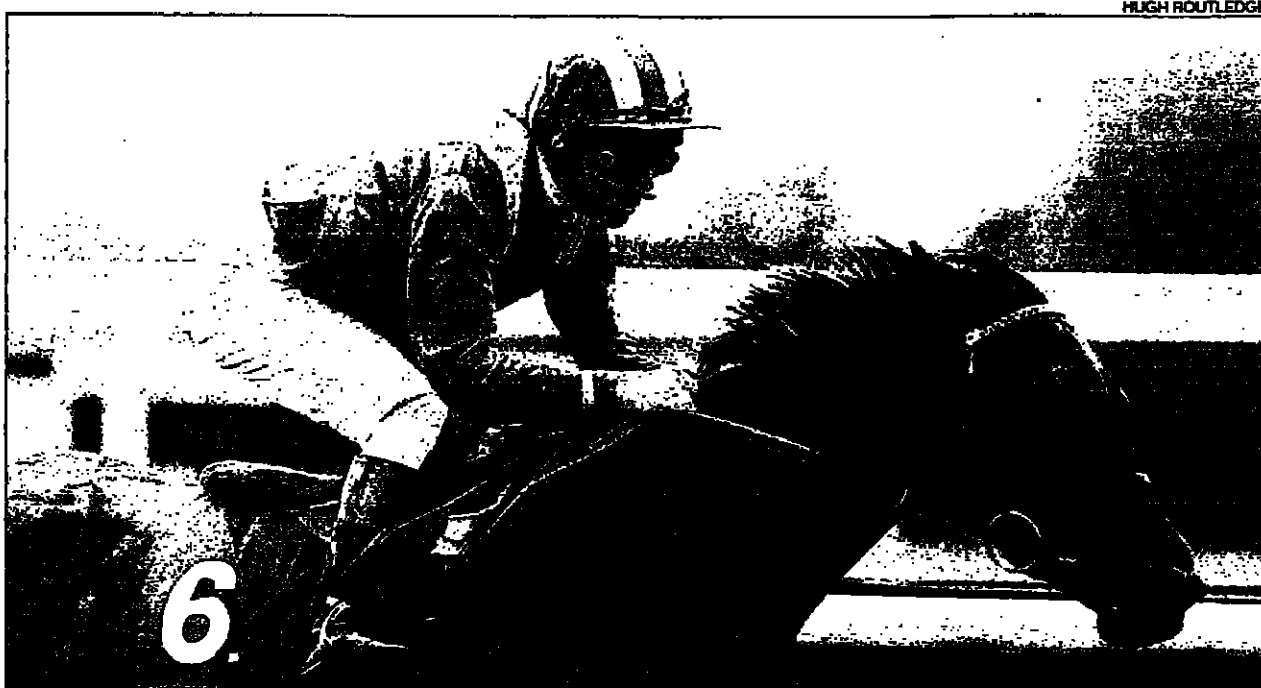
THE racecourses which make the smallest contribution to prize-money totals were revealed for the first time yesterday — with Southwell and Hexham being by far the nearest.

Of Britain's 59 racecourses, which last year produced £19 million from turnstile revenue and sponsorship towards total prize-money of £59 million, Southwell was the only one

MARK RIMMER was detained in Warwick General Hospital overnight with suspected internal injuries after suffering a heavy fall at Warwick yesterday. His mount, Irish Fiction, was fatally injured after clipping the heels of another runner, Victory At Hart, in the seller.

not to give a single penny — for the second year running. In fact, the Midlands course somehow managed to be a negative contributor in 1995 and 1996 — to the tune of more than £80,000.

The prize-money breakdown follows criticism that some tracks rely heavily on funding from the Levy Board and owners and do next to nothing to boost purses. The statistical research, published yesterday by the British



Richard Hills has Hachiyah on a tight rein as she opens her account in fluent style at Lingfield yesterday

Horsing Board's race planning department, appears to justify such complaints. Although the racecourses' overall contribution increased by 7.6 per cent last year and was exactly double the £9.5 million paid by owners through entry fees, 17 courses contributed less than owners. They were Brighton, Catterick, Folkestone, Fontwell, Hereford, Hexham, Leicester, Lingfield, Ludlow,

Nottingham, Plumpton, Redcar, Southwell, Taunton, Towcester, Warwick and Worcester. However, the most frugal courses by far were Folkestone, whose £30,954 contribution averaged out at £1,474 per meeting. Hereford (£1,135), Plumpton (£1,199), Hexham (£493) and Southwell, who failed to spend £33,997 of revenue it received from owners and the Levy Board and

was therefore a negative contributor. Richard Muddle, managing director of RAM racecourses, which owns Southwell and Wolverhampton, said yesterday: "We came out of it with a deficit because we didn't spend all the money we had. It was an error because we budgeted for a certain amount to come back from guaranteed sweepstakes and the amount was higher than we thought."

Muddle did not shy away from confirming that he sees little point in contributing to the prizes at Southwell, because of the special nature of the all-weather sport on offer. "It is all about the quality of racing we are trying to put on the racing at Southwell is very competitive and fills a gap the bookmakers need. No-one has told us to put on higher quality of racing, because it is not needed."

Muddle, who declined to disclose RAM's annual profits, added: "We are putting on a product which the industry requires. The mechanism for funding is a historic one which has never got to grips with all-weather racing. It is all about turnover receipts and the number of people who come to watch the product — and our product is geared to the off-course market."

Charles Enderby, managing director and clerk of the course at Hexham, had other reasons to explain his course's meagre contribution. "We are slowly rebuilding Hexham. We have retrained the course over the last ten years and have put in a watering system so we can water for the first time and stage summer jump racing. We are also building a new stand."

The Levy Board, which allocated almost £30 million in prize-money last year, is planning to introduce incentives which will favour courses which give a larger share of money.

Ascot, which chipped in with almost £3 million, was the largest contributor followed by Newmarket (£1.95 million), York (£1.4 million), Cheltenham (£1.3 million), Goodwood (£1.1 million), Sandown (£1.08 million) and Epsom (£1.04 million). Among the smaller courses, Carmel, Fakenham, Kelso, Perth and Wincanton did particularly well last year.

SALISBURY

THUNDERER  
2.30 Kaffari, 3.00 Golden Ace, 3.30 Mr Sponge, 4.00 Rainwatch, 4.30 Dulcinea, 5.00 Bajan Rose, Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 SNOW KID (nap), 4.00 Motet.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM  
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 EBF WEYHILL MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,626; 1m) (11 runners)

- |    |    |                     |    |    |                     |
|----|----|---------------------|----|----|---------------------|
| 1  | 50 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 2  | 51 | SPRUE 16 (P) 11-11  |
| 3  | 52 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 4  | 53 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 5  | 54 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 6  | 55 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 7  | 56 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 8  | 57 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 9  | 58 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 10 | 59 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 11 | 60 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |    |    |                     |

3.00 MARTIN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,626; 1m) (17)

- |    |    |                     |    |    |                     |
|----|----|---------------------|----|----|---------------------|
| 1  | 61 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 2  | 62 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 3  | 63 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 4  | 64 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 5  | 65 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 6  | 66 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 7  | 67 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 8  | 68 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 9  | 69 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 10 | 70 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 11 | 71 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 12 | 72 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 13 | 73 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 14 | 74 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 15 | 75 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 16 | 76 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 17 | 77 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |    |    |                     |

3.30 MARGADELO CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O; £4,561; 7f) (7)

- |   |    |                     |   |    |                     |
|---|----|---------------------|---|----|---------------------|
| 1 | 78 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 2 | 79 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 3 | 80 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 4 | 81 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 5 | 82 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 | 6 | 83 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |
| 7 | 84 | ALPINE 16 (P) 11-11 |   |    |                     |

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

The Tote Jackpot pool rose to £379,499.16 at Warwick yesterday. With 110 winning tickets, the dividend was £5,044.40. Rob Hartnett, spokesman for the Tote, said: "The total invested goes to show that it has tapped into a vein of excitement which can only be good for racing."

Warwick

Going: good, good to soft in places  
2.15 (7) 1, Opposition Leader (D Holland), 2, Sagittarius (B-J), 3, Hon Justice (D Holland), 4, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 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812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 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1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 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1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631,



RUGBY UNION: MIDWEEK XV ENSURES THAT LIONS' MOMENTUM IS MAINTAINED

## Vintage Bentley in overdrive

Free State Cheetahs ..... 30  
British Isles XV ..... 52FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN BLOEMFONTEIN

A BRILLIANT display of running rugby and another tour de force by John Bentley, who scored three tries, against the Free State here last night was offset by the potential loss to the British Isles of Will Greenwood. He was carried off after a heavy fall and taken to hospital for a scan and, with concussion diagnosed, will miss the remainder of this tour and the England game against Australia on July 12.

Greenwood had played his part in making this one of the most scintillating games of the tour, but the key to the match was the outstanding support play of the back-row forwards.

The determination of this Lions XV to concede nothing to the successful international side bore fruit as early as the ninth minute. Simpson had taken less than three minutes to open his account with a penalty goal from 35 metres and was delighted to accept the first try of the evening.

With his second attempt, De Beer, the Free State stand-off half, had levelled matters, but his side found themselves descending a slippery slope in the face of brilliant Lions support play. The try should have been a more straightforward affair — had Bentley not chosen to go himself — but Free State were penalised and Can cross-kicked directly to Simpson, who was unmarked wide on the left wing.

Simpson's excellent conversion scored between the posts, and his next, from the right, proved even better. With only 15 minutes played, the Lions broke from their own half, and a wave of red shirts swept up in support. Healey looked to his left, then swivelled with a long pass to Bentley on the right, and he swerved past Muller and Erasmus to score.

Though the set-pieces were not as productive as the Lions would have wished their loose play was of a different order



Bentley thumps the ball down in the right-hand corner for his first try for the Lions in Bloemfontein yesterday

and Bentley was once more the beneficiary. De Beer interrupted their progress with his second penalty goal, but any Free State attacks foundered on a rock-like defence in midfield.

Simpson, fielding a loose kick in the middle of the field, found his back row ranged alongside and Can, looking to run on every opportunity, sent Bentley inside and outside a baffled defence.

The advantage might have been even greater had Greenwood not been ankle-tapped by Brink ten metres short, but the procession was halted when Free State worked Brink into the corner.

Yet Greenwood prompted a

magnificent response. From the restart, he crashed clean through the defence to send Bateman over, but, on the stroke of half-time, Greenwood, halfway through a gap, fell awkwardly and hit his head on the ground.

The Lions were sufficiently disconcerted to give Free State the chance to get back into the game, though they required the assistance of the match officials to do so. Brink knocking on but "scoring" in the corner. De Beer's conversion — and subsequent penalty goal — rubbed salt into the wound.

It was a sensible decision by Redman to give his side breathing space and call up

Stimpson to kick a penalty goal from 37 metres. Even better, Bentley's third try, after a rampaging charge by Shaw, extended the gap.

For the third time on tour, the Lions passed the half-century with two tries in the final ten minutes. Twice Miller delivered the scoring pass, first sending Jenkins to the line, then Underwood.

South Africa will be without three of the backs who played in the 25-16 defeat by the Lions in Cape Town for the match in Durban: Japie Mulder, James Small and Edrich Lubbe.

SCORERS: Free State Cheetahs: Tries: Brink (2), De Beer, Conversion: De Beer (2). Penalty goals: De Beer (3). British Isles XV: Tries: Bentley (3), Simpson, Bateman (1), Underwood. Conversions: Simpson (4). Penalty goals: Simpson (5).

FREE STATE CHEETAHS: M Smith, JH van Wyk, H Muller (captain), B Venter, S Brink, J de Beer, S Fourie, D Greenwald, C Maras, W Meyer, W van Rensburg, R Opperman, B Els, J Erasmus, J Coetzee, Fourie replaced by J Louw (40min). Jeeve replaced by J Heermann (60).  
BRITISH ISLES XV: T Stimpson (Newcastle and England), J Bentley (Newcastle and England), A Bateman (Richmond and Wales), W Greenwood (Leicester), Underwood (Newcastle and England), M East (Bath and England), A Healey (Leicester and England), S Williams (Leicester and England), R Williams (Richmond and Wales), D Young (Cardiff and Wales), R Wainwright (Walsingham and Wales), N Redman (Bath and England), N Black (Leicester and England), E Miller (Leicester and England), Greenwood replaced by N Jenkins (Pontypool and Wales, 40min). Young replaced by J Leonard (Hartlepool and England, 71).  
Referee: J Kaplan (Natal).

Internet details of the Lions tour and reports on all the matches played so far are available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

ATHLETICS: FALLEN CIRCUS PRINCE CLAMBERS BACK ON TRAPEZE

## Johnson returns in leading role

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

IF Wayne Kipeter is right, the paymasters of the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix meeting here tonight must be wrong.

Kipeter, the Kenyan who holds the world 800 metres championship for Denmark, proffered the opinion yesterday that Michael Johnson's one-to-one challenge with Donovan Bailey in Toronto three weeks ago had "killed his image". Yet Johnson returns to racing this evening on

a higher appearance fee than Bailey, the winner in Toronto.

"He thinks he is a big star, which he is not," one senior meeting official said of Bailey, of Canada, the world and Olympic 100 metres champion. "Not like Michael."

Johnson, the world and Olympic 400 metres champion, is still much in demand as the circus prince, though it is more as a fallen trapeze artist seeking to regain the public's lost admiration that he appears here.

"I feel sorry for him," Kipeter said, recognising that events in Toronto had damaged Johnson's reputation. Bailey's allegation that Johnson had faked injury during that 150 metres merely fuelled speculation that Johnson was a bad loser.

Johnson was furious and the tension has not eased. When Bailey, who runs the 100 metres here, entered a piano bar yesterday and learnt that Johnson was scheduled to give a press conference, he left. Furthermore,

Bailey was not worth a press conference, the promoter decided.

Asked whether he and Bailey had patched up their relationship since Toronto, Johnson said: "There is no relationship."

From here, the two move on to Sheffield, for the British grand prix on Sunday, and a request for a joint press conference on *The Big Breakfast* has been flatly refused by Johnson's camp.

A quadricep strain was the reason given for Johnson pulling up in Toronto. He took two weeks off and resumed training last week. "Training has gone well, so I am confident," he said.

Johnson's request for a 400 metres rather than a 200 metres here, because the shorter race "puts more pressure on my legs", presented some difficulty in assembling a field at two weeks' notice. However, the inclusion of three of the first four from the United States championships, held while Johnson was recovering from the race in Toronto, adds poignancy, given that these are athletes who will be competing in the world championships in Athens, while Johnson may not be.

That depends on political manoeuvrings and Johnson said that he had heard nothing from either the international federation or his national governing body. He would not say whether he might accept a wild card. He was just "focusing on tomorrow".

Johnson insisted that he had no regrets over Toronto. "Whether it is a good experience, like the Olympics, or a bad experience, I never look back. I always look forward," he said.

Looking forward, then, what was his priority this season — a 400 metres world record? Was that his goal? "I do not have to have some big goal," he said. "My goal is to go out and win my races. Sorry if that is not good enough for you."

He laughed as he said it. Yes, he remembers how.

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## Britons warm to frozen asset

BRITAIN'S leading winter sportsmen and women were warmed yesterday by the announcement of a plan to build a £100 million specialist practice centre on a site in Shoreham, Sussex. A disused quarry, widely derided as one of the biggest eyesores in England, will be transformed under the proposals put forward by Alfred McAlpine, the building company, and a new firm, SIG 2 (S).

"We have the technology to supply fresh snow and ice every day. It is not breaking new ground because the concept is already in use," David Pritchard, one of the project

managers, said. "In Tokyo, they have the biggest resort in the world, so we are just intent on adapting their technology to fit to the south of England. This is a fantastic idea."

Aspiring skiers and skaters in Britain have long cherished the idea of a custom-built training facility in the hope of improving a record at the Winter Olympic Games that, apart from the exploits of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in ice dancing, has rarely stirred the sporting nation in recent times.

Last September, Richard Cobbing, a world champion freestyle skier, was forced to

retire because of a lack of funding. He sees the Shoreham project as providing much-needed impetus for international competitors.

Richard Berry, a former manager of Britain's Olympic skiing team, said: "This is a badly needed if we are to be competitive in world terms. It will mean that there will be easy access for our up-and-coming athletes."

"People like Martin and Graham Bell have done really well, but they didn't have the basic facilities when they were still learning the trade and that is the reason why they haven't won major medals."

## No challenge for Delia

Hot Gadgets

BBC1, 7.30pm

Carol Vorderman is perfect casting to host a relentlessly jolly series about some of the drier manifestations of applied technology. More like a game show than *Tomorrow's World*, it features four gadgets per week and invites a panel of lay experts to try them and give their verdict. The studio audience also has a vote. First up is a motorised scooter, powered by a lawnmower engine which folds up so that you can carry it home. The point of the machine is far from clear but it provides much aimless fun. The same cannot be said of the computerised kitchen cookbook, which would appear to have no chance of knocking Delia Smith off the bestseller lists. And so the programme goes inconsequentially on, pausing only so that we can meet a celebrity gadget collector. Tonight he is Paul Daniels, still here despite his threat to leave the country if Labour came to power.

United Kingdom: Quarry Queen

BBC2, 9.00pm

The latest snapshot of life in Britain today comes from the Peak District and concerns a classic confrontation between locals and incomers. The focus is on Doreen, proudly showing off her new giant excavator to her less-than-enthusiastic more senses than one. Doreen needs it to expand her quarrying business. The men she employs and the farmers who pass the time of day with her are on her side and not afraid to say so in robust terms. But those who have come to the Peak District from elsewhere and are hereby protective of their newly found rural paradise take the opposite view. Connoisseurs join the argument as they try to stop further mineral exploitation in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Backup: Not Cricket

BBC1, 9.40pm

Public dilemmas and private scandals continue to divide the time of the Charlie Serial team of backup cops. This week's writer, Robin Mukherjee, draws his main plot from the sensitive area of child labour. As the putative problem is an Asian sweatshop, the script has to tread carefully for it must



Carol Vorderman (BBC1, 7.30pm)

not imply that Asians generally are in the business of exploiting the young. Nor does it, though there is no soft-pedalling on the exploitation itself. But humour makes a welcome intrusion as the police agree to a cricket match between themselves and men picketing the factory. Meanwhile, the show maintains its reputation for finding sleaze in unexpected places, many of them uncomfortably close to police HQ. DI Overton is the latest officer to come into the frame as the poker-faced WPC Copson (Katrina Leavelle) smells corruption.

Gaytime TV

BBC2, 11.15pm

The lesbian and gay show returns for a third series, no doubt reviving the debate over whether the gay community is better served by having a television niche to itself or being given a higher profile in general programming. The comedian Rhona Cameron is joined by a new presenter, Richard Fairbrairn of Right Said Fred, and their studio guest tonight is the actor and writer Anthony Sher. The first show looks at the "outing" of the American soap star Ellen DeGeneres, a bit of an old story by now, and Britain's first lesbian beauty contest. The *Wish You Were Queer* travel spot will be a rummage in the BBC archives. Since coverage of gay matters on television has not always been as enlightened as it might have been, there should be rich pickings. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Last Boat Home

Radio 4, 7.45pm

Although we are a few days from the final curtain in Hong Kong, when the Union Flag will be lowered and Chris Patten will sail away aboard *Britannia*, there is a case for saying that a voyage from Hong Kong to Britain in March had more significance. Julian Petherick was aboard the *Orana* when she left Hong Kong on March 6 carrying judges, senior police officers and civil servants who had decided that their future lay elsewhere. Petherick interviews them as the journey unfolds and, although their memories are interesting, the overwhelming impression is of a fantastic wealth of experience. One wonders two things: can the Chinese do without such people in Hong Kong? And can all this experience find a proper outlet elsewhere?

## RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 To Whitley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Grazier 6.15 Newsday 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Update 8.40 John Peel 10.15 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clare Sturgess 4.00 Dave Pearce

## RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 30 Kim Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Nick Barraclough 8.00 Folk on Two 9.00 Tracey MacLeod 9.30 Speaking Volumes 10.00 The Statens Tales. See Choice 10.30 Richard Wilson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nove

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine 12.00pm Midday includes Moneycheck with Philippa Lamb 1.30pm Wintertime 97 Coverage of day three of the All England Championships includes the National Lottery draw 8.00 The World of... Rugby with Will Carling and guests Malcolm Middleton and King Williams 8.00 Extra Time with Mark Steele 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

## TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Reuben 9.00 James Watt 1.00am Ian Collins

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Today 7.30 Sport 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Midweek 9.10 Update 9.15 Newsday 10.15 Farming 10.30 Science 10.45 Sport 11.30 One Planet 12.30pm Sport 1.00 News in 3.00 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Science 2.00 Newsday 3.00 Outlook 3.30 Midweek 4.00 Sport 4.15 Performance 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 The World 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Midweek 9.00 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Science 11.30 World 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Midweek 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain 2.30 Omnibus 3.30 Midweek Books 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

## CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Alan Mann 8.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Lunchtime Concerto, Mozart (from Concerto No 4) E. R. Major, (K455), Elgar (Cello Concerto, in E minor, Op 85) 3.00 James Clegg 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata Dabell (Guitar Sonata in F major, Op 29 No 1) 8.00 Classic Evening Concerto, Beethoven (Piano Concerto in C major, Op 15) Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G, Schubert (String Quartet in C major, D 956) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Lunchtime Concerto (1)

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono Thailand 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Beethoven (Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage), Brahms (Newspaper Waltzes), Britten (Serenade), Carver (Mist, O Bone Jesu), Dvorak (String Quartet in G, Op 77) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Lully (Catherine's Song), Sade (Exercises), Part 2: Sibelius (Three Songs from Op 11), Reger (Variations on a Theme by Hiller) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Paris 1790 includes Beethoven (The Wurm Valley, Sally Bunney, mezzo, and Ian Burnside, piano) 2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe includes Sade (Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV956), Walton (Symphony Concertante) 4.00 Choral Evensong, Live from Llandaff Cathedral with Verity Sharp 5.15 Live, with Jeremy Nicholas includes Dubois (Toccata), Telemann (Vols Concerto in G) 6.00 Rush Hour Concert, Florilegium Ashley Solomon, flute, Rachel Pidgeon, violin, Daniel

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Voice or Virtue (85) 10.00 News: A Good Read. In the last of the series, the West Yorkshire Playhouse director Judo Kelly and the artistic director of Tara Arts, Jander Vermer discuss their favourite paperbacks 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 News: Question Time (1) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm North East of Eden, the second of the six drama series by Peter Kerr 12.55 Weather 1.40 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers in 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Patricia's Paddy, by Tony Mulholland, with Lucy Maudslayi and Nancy MacLean (24) 2.45 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini reviews The Devil's Own, a controversial film about the IRA with Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt 4.45 Short Story: Planet Love, by Patricia Alderman

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.58 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Britain (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 News: The Facts, with John Wale 7.45 Last Boat Home, See Choice 8.30 Your Place or Mine? A collaboration with ABC Australia looks behind the facade of Adelaide's central business district 8.58 News 9.30 Catalyst, Quentin Cooper goes in search of the origin of the 3,800 million years ago (25) 9.30 Kaleidoscope, See Choice 10.00 The World Today 10.15 On This Day 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Monkey King, by Timothy Mo, Read by David Vin (310) 11.00 Twenty Plays, The 10th anniversary programmes featuring original fictional scripting heard 11.15 The Mahabharata, Part four of Karl MacDermott's epic art comedy, read in mainland Britain 11.30 Life, Death and Sex with Nilla and Sue (FM), A comedy series, by Bill Dwy (35) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News: 12.12 The Late Book: It Postino, by Antonio Sarmiento (35) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 698, 903, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Doer, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

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## Matthew Bond

(then again Edwards did greet her with the words "Here's a picture of our beloved Queen Mother ... with a sheep"), the Prince of Wales was well intentioned but hopeless, and Diana, Princess of Wales, a poppet. "What's that?" she shrieked as she encountered Colin for the 58th time. "A rather crumpled flower arrangement," he explained with engaging frankness. "It's been under your arm

—oh, great." In a way, Colin Luke, the director, had quietly said more about class than Jilly Hafenrichter, his counterpart on MTV, has said, very noisily, in three hours of *Class*. But that does not worry her and nor, apparently, does the fact that what her talking heads do say has all been said at least a thousand times before. Lounge... serviette... toilet... fish knives... round we went again. That has been the real disappointment of this series; the almost cynical lack of anything new to say. "Anyone got any bright ideas? Nope? Oh well, we'd better give 'em the old stuff again. Edit it beautifully and perhaps nobody will notice."

And perhaps nobody has. One of the side-effects of the chosen format — a rapid succession of famous faces each saying the first outrageous thing that comes into their head — is that exhaustion quickly sets in. You long for one

person to string together a single, original thesis, but when it does not happen you fall back on admiring the carefully posed scenery. And, after three programmes, even that is becoming familiar. There is Tamara still in her nightie, A.A. still having a bad tie-knot day and Melvyn Bragg still sitting in an empty Cumbrian pub. Will Self has now been leaning at a rakish angle for so long that I suspect trendy camera-work cannot be wholly responsible.

**H**afenrichter had no qualms about embracing the fashion for mockery and neither the caravan-proud couple nor the defiant bidet-user have much cause to thank her. That said, however, one of the strange things about television is that they probably will.

You knew the end must be coming when we stumbled across one of two original ideas (the

curious class alliance among Newbury bypass protesters, the middle-class plague of redundancy) and Brian Sewell finally said something sensible. On that stranded note, it was time to move on.

But not far. John Shuttleworth mocked similar subjects in **500 Bus Stops** (BBC2), but that's all right because he — or rather the actor Graham Fellows — is a comedian. What would make it really all right, though, is if he was funny and so far it is a close call.

Fellows is suffering horribly from transferring a successful radio format to television. On radio the Shuttleworth world of Sixties semis, Velerio and electronic keyboards works delightfully, especially when delivered by the wheezing man himself. On television, however, I don't know. First impressions were that the jokes became laboured and snobbish. But perhaps I am just being a bit middle-class about it.

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[illegible]





# SPORT

**FOOTBALL 45**  
Kendall back in  
the old routine  
at Goodison Park

## RUGBY UNION 50

Cheetahs run to  
ground by  
rampant Lions

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 1997

Britons produce second-day shocks

# Wilkinson soars while seeds scatter

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GREG RUSEDSKI may not be alone in taking umbrage at Henman. As the Canadian-born Briton duly completed his Centre Court victory over Mark Philippoussis, the No 7 seed, Chris Wilkinson contrived an even greater upset on No 13 Court. The resident of Southampton scythed down Jonas Bjorkman, the No 17 seed, to enhance further his record as Britain's most successful contemporary at these championships.

Only once in six previous visits has Wilkinson, 27, failed to advance beyond the opening round. Having never previously scuppered a seed, Bjorkman's scalp will now take pride of place on the Wimbledon mantlepiece. And so it should.

In a match of seismic fluctuations, a combination of intense concentration and raw courage eventually wore Bjorkman down. "It was certainly one of the best matches I've played at Wimbledon," Wilkinson said.

The 7-6, 0-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 verdict was posted with an overnight interlude that fortified Wilkinson just as it had Rusedski — who required just 14 minutes to dispatch Philippoussis 7-6, 7-6, 6-3. Thus, the first two men's seeds to fall were both slayed by Britons. Although Rusedski's performance was one of some magnitude, he might concede that, yesterday, Wilkinson deserved the plaudits.

Wilkinson faced arguably the toughest opening match among the domestic players, but he proved once again his pedigree for the job, outlasting Bjorkman in a marathon just short of three hours. The scale of his achievement is best assessed by their respective world rankings. Bjorkman, recently edged out by Philippoussis in the semi-

finals at Queen's, trades as the world No 23, exactly 195 places above Wilkinson.

The upset of all this is another marvellous filip for British tennis, which has been burdened for far too long by the weight of failure. Wilkinson is no thrusting youth but his exploits will accelerate the momentum generated by Rusedski, Tim Henman and Andrew Richardson — who have all progressed to the second round. There is suddenly no shortage of role models for aspiring players.



Lynne Truss ..... 48  
Becker rejuvenated ..... 48  
Simon Barua ..... 48  
Results ..... 48

Wilkinson's victory was all the more impressive for the fact that his original opponent, Thomas Muster, had been injured. Seeded No 6 but uncomfortable on grass, Muster withdrew just as Wilkinson was plotting his ambush. "I was very disappointed," he said. "To be honest, I didn't really fancy my chances against Bjorkman."

Try telling that to the hapless Swede, who has a taste for sour cream at this venue. Last year, Bjorkman went out in the opening round to another domestic campaigner, Luke Milligan. He had only himself to blame here, failing with each of eight break points in

the sixth game of the deciding set. He also squandered opportunities in the eighth game before Wilkinson closed out with an immaculate grass-court service game at 5-4.

"At that stage, technique goes out of the window," Wilkinson reflected of the last few games. "It takes courage, but it's easier if you're English. The crowd gets behind you and I love the atmosphere here." He now faces Mark Woodforde, the Australian doubles expert who brushed aside Leander Paes, of India, in straight sets.

In the past, Wilkinson had berated Rusedski for transferring his allegiance to Britain. Yesterday, the two were united in a common cause and Rusedski looked just as sharp when returning to complete his victory over Philippoussis — whose spirit he had effectively broken on Monday night.

Resuming two sets to the good and at 3-1, Rusedski served up a love game to shroud whatever fantasy Philippoussis might have dreamt up overnight. So dominant was his service that Rusedski extended his ace count to 26 before finishing off his bewildered opponent with another at match point.

Statistics rarely embellish the image of the naked eye but this contest was accurately charted by the available data. Rusedski won 87 per cent of the points played on his first serve and 78 per cent of those on his second. There was no scope within such levels of superiority and Philippoussis was quick to accept the fact.

"I thought I could do well here, but what can you do when the guy serves that big?" the Australian said. "If Greg can serve like that in his other matches, he is going to have a good tournament. Good luck to him."

For his part, Rusedski felt that he had utilised his service to better effect. "I don't feel like I outsmarted him on the serve," he said. "He had the more powerful serve but I placed it. I mixed it up. I didn't give him a rhythm on the returns."

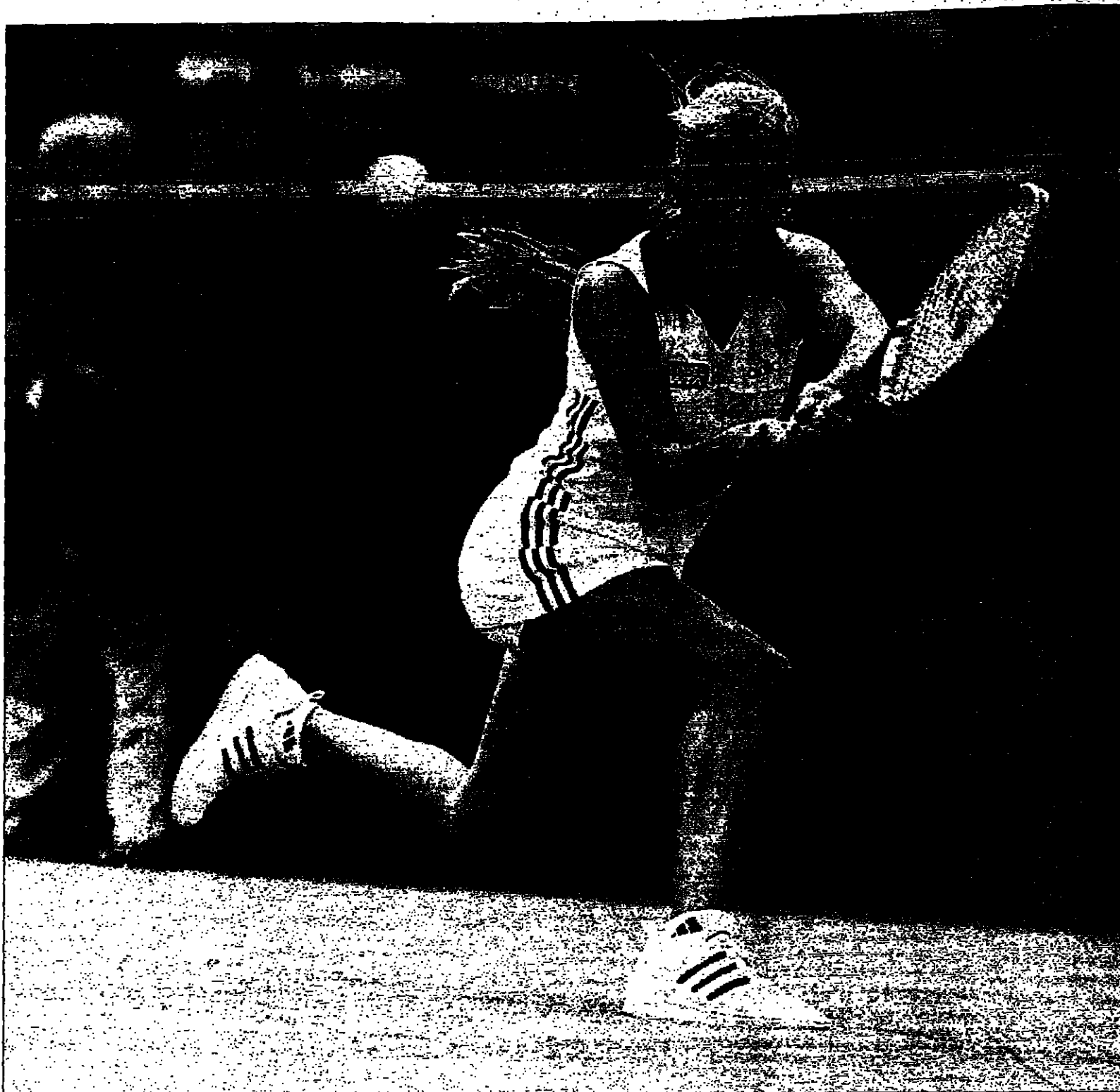
Rusedski will also have noted that Centre Court was packed for the resumption of his match. He is clearly warming the hearts of his audience and he implored the galleries to maintain that support.

The crowd really helped me to win that second-set tie-break," he said. "In my next match, I'm going to need the same support."

British-inflicted wounds aside, another men's seed to fall on the second day was Gustavo Kuerten. The Brazilian, winner of the French Open and seeded No 11, emerged on the wrong side of a five-set match with Justin Gimelstrop, of the United States. Some more established names enjoyed safer passages, among them Pete Sampras, the world No 1, who eased past Mikael Tillstrom, of Sweden, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.



Wilkinson: beat Bjorkman after five-set marathon



Kournikova leans into a double-handed return during her first-round victory over Rubin at Wimbledon yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

# Kournikova on fast track to stardom

Michael Calvin reflects on the lost innocence of a child prodigy nurtured from the cradle for a leading role on the Centre Court

SHE has a ponytail and a perma-tan, an agent and an attitude. Her microskirts resemble crisply ironed tea towels and her microphone manner is impeccable. Anna Kournikova would be the perfect Spice Girl, but, unless a vacancy is created for Teeny Spice, she is too young.

Her childhood was sacrificed to a marketing strategy and a sporting regime that teaches little of life but survival of the fittest. Her 6-1, 6-1 victory over Chanda Rubin, a spectacular Centre Court debut that spanned only 44 minutes of yesterday afternoon, was more akin to a public humiliation than a tennis match. All that was missing was a set of stocks and a fusillade of rotten fruit. The irony is that no one was remotely interested in the quality of Kournikova's performance how she projected her personality was all that mattered.

She may be only 17 days into her seventeenth year, but her future is free from the uncertainties of youth. It is mapped out by Mark McCormack's International Management Group (IMG), agents for everyone from Arnold Palmer to the Pope, and will be weighed in tonnes of newspaper and measured in miles of digitised videotape.

The three most important words she uttered during a disconcertingly mature press conference performance yesterday, when asked about her boyfriend, the ice hockey

player, Sergei Fedorov, were "I am single". She is already gossip column fodder — her liaison with the Russian defenceman for the Stanley Cup winners, Detroit Red Wings, is unaffected by their ten-year age gap — and Hollywood is hovering until she reaches the age of consent.

With her delicately fringed blonde hair and piercing blue eyes, she is a Madison Avenue cliché, a Barbie Doll whose leisure wear has been sponsored since the age of ten. Cosmetic companies covet her fresh face and, even if skeletal supermodels are in vogue, anyone with such long lithe legs is a perfect clothes horse. The occasional tennis title might help to pad out the curriculum vitae, but it won't do much else, apart from add another notch or two to the bank balance.

This testifies to the foresight of IMG. Kournikova, who might have had trouble gaining entrance to the Royal Box yesterday, given that she was wearing identical leisure wear to her daughter, which revealed the occasional acre of midriff, but the view from the players box, through her designer sunglasses, was sufficiently reassuring.

Rubin, ranked 11 places higher at 31 in the world, lost the first set in 17 minutes. Her wrist weakened by injury and

her mind muddled by sudden assumptions of inferiority, the American was a natural victim. Little wonder the IMG minder, assigned to the Kournikova family, beamed as every lens was trained on the girl Alla had transplanted from Moscow to Bradenton in Florida, site of Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy.

Anna was only 11 when she bridged the cultural gap between the economic harshness of post-perestroika Russia and the sybaritic lifestyle of the Florida Keys, but she was the perfect pupil. The work ethic of a refugee prompted her to pound tennis balls from the baseline for endless hours. She developed a forearm that had the strength of a mortar shell and a backhand that had the accuracy of a tracer bullet.

The occasional racket was thrown in the process, but the tantrums were more than matched by her mother, who was eventually banned from the practice courts by the pugnacious Bollettieri, for screaming abuse at the daughter she had enrolled at a Soviet sports clinic at the age of five.

Anna was a natural gymnast, but once she had won her first tennis title, at eight, the horizons of her life were restricted. Fame can dehumanise even the most

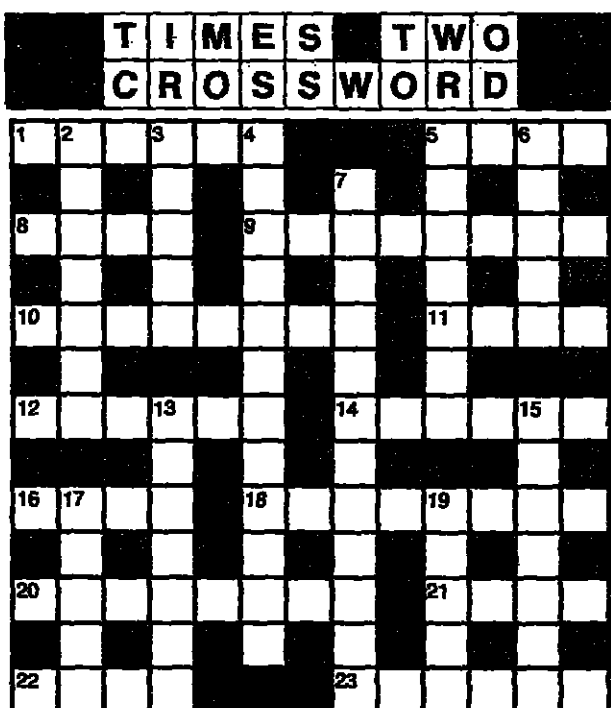
callow youth, and the dangers of being isolated by a prodigious talent are best articulated by someone who knows. Steffi Graf. She watched the Kournikova marketing campaign begin to unfold and observed: "She definitely needs to pay attention to being a normal girl."

The contrast to Martina Hingis, who is nine months older, was stark even three

years ago, when they played each other in the Wimbledon girls' championships. Kournikova, beaten in two sets, was studied, suspicious. Hingis was merely shy.

Hingis, the world No 1, has retained a schoolgirl's spontaneity as she has risen into sport's stratosphere. She enjoys her talent, relishes her status. Kournikova's innocence has long been lost.

A star might have been born yesterday. But the suspicion persists that it will flare briefly, before burning out before its time.



No 1129

## ACROSS

- 1 Bang head subserviently (6)
- 2 Renown (4)
- 3 Terrible czar (4)
- 4 E French region, has cross (5)
- 5 Very hungry (5)
- 6 Blood (full) wound with horn (4)
- 7 Fireplace (6)
- 8 Book writer (6)
- 9 Abandoned child (4)
- 10 Lollards his followers (5)
- 11 Bounty (5)
- 12 N American jerk (4)
- 13 Nothing but lake (4)
- 14 Help (to poor) type of map (showing contours) (6)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1128

- ACROSS: 4 Argus 7 Clearing 8 Keep 9 Eye to eye  
10 Astral 13 Strife 14 Pillar 15 Wright 18 Resemble  
19 Port 20 Sanction 21 Depot

- DOWN: 1 Access 2 Temper 3 Orwell 4 Agilator  
5 Greeting 6 Sphere 11 Talk shop 12 Alarmist 14 Period  
15 Wretch 16 Impair 17 Hiring

## SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1124

- ACROSS: 1 Japan 4 Subplot 5 Rue the day 9 VIP  
10 Yes 11 Leningrad 12 Bonus 13 Tally 16 Disparate  
18 Gag 20 Own 21 Raise Cain 22 Decided 23 Lodge

- DOWN: 1 Jerky 2 Press on 3 No holds barred 4 Siding  
5 Beyond the veil 6 Lever 7 Tepidly 12 Bedford  
14 Laggard 15 Varied 17 Sonic 19 Cienfe

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# Cross carries British banner

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

COMPARED to Tim Henman, Greg Rusedski and even Chris Wilkinson, Karen Cross is not figure in the firmament of British tennis, but yesterday she became the first British woman qualifier since 1976 to win a first-round match in the main Wimbledon draw when she beat Linda Wild, of the United States, the world No 44, in straight sets.

Cross, the left-handed British No 8, was a wild-card entrant into the qualifying competition, finally winning through on Sunday.

In the first set against Wild, ranked 278 places higher than the 23-year-old from Exeter, Cross broke to lead 2-1, was broken herself, then returned the compliment. Two service breaks in the second set allowed her to take the match 6-4, 6-2.

"I felt quite confident," she said. "I got off to a good start,

broke her serve early and just kept going. Having got to 5-2 up in the second set I thought: 'I am not going to let this slip.' The biggest win of her career? 'By far. It's probably my first win over a player in the top 100.'"

Her success was in harsh contrast to the experience of Clare Wood, who was swept aside by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the first match on Centre Court. Although she served six times at game point and even had a break point in the fourth game of the first set, Wood was unable to win a game. That her 50-minute demolition was not the quickest match of the tournament so far was a testament to Wood's willingness to chase everything, despite a hamstring injury that requires surgery, but a chase it always was.

"It was quite an occasion going out on Centre Court, but

the top players have the advantage of having dealt with that situation." Wood said, "so it is a little intimidating, but certainly I didn't go out with a defeatist attitude."

Elsewhere, victory seemed possible for Shirli-Ann Siddall, the British No 3, when she led Helena Sukova 5-2 in the first set. Unfortunately, Siddall allowed Sukova to break back, lost the first set on a tie-break and rescued only a single game in the second to go out 6-7, 1-6.

Jamie Delgado, one game from defeat when play was halted on Monday, duly lost to Jerome Golmard, of France, who goes forward to play Henman. Luke Milligan lost to the French qualifier, Arnaud Clement, in another rain-delayed finish: 4-2 ahead in the third set overnight, he eventually went out 6-2, 6-7, 5-7, 2-6.

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